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PARLIAMENT DISCUSSES POLLS, FORM OF GOVERNMENT

Prime Minister's Speech

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 26 Jun 81 p 1

[Text] Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman called upon the Opposition parties to go to the people in the coming election and seek their mandate on their political programmes.

Taking part in the general discussion on the National Budget for 1981-82 in the Jatiya Sangsad on Thursday the Leader of the House said that the Opposition parties had a greater responsibility to ensure the proper functioning of a democratic system. The Government believes in peaceful transfer of power through periodic elections and not through adventurism he noted.

He defended the announcement of the date for the presidential elections and observed that there was no need for any discussion with the Opposition parties on the issue since it was a routine affair of the Government.

He commended the role of the Opposition parties in extending support for upholding the constitution and the democratic order following the assassination of President Ziaur Rahman.

Prime Minister termed the debate over the presidential system versus the parliamentary democracy as a healthy one. But he felt the sweeping observation of the Opposition parties about the presidential system as baseless. The presidential system is also democratic and the parliamentary form can as well degenerated into an autocratic rule he maintained. He cited examples from the USA and France to point out the democratic character of the presidential system. He referred to the instances from Pakistan India and Sri Lanka where parliamentary form of Government debased itself into a despotic rule.

He stated that there were merits and demerits of both forms of Government. The seizure of power by extra-constitutional methods through coups can take place under both parliamentary and presidential systems he said.

The Prime Minister observed that the form of Government was an electoral issue during the last presidential election. He contended that nowhere the legislative powers of the Parliament irrespective of the form of Government was absolute. He further observed that the Parliament in Bangladesh under the existing constitutional order was more democratic than the legislature in the USA or France

since the President had no veto power over the legislation enacted by the Jatiya Sangsad.

He stated that the common people were not really bothered about the system or form of Government. What they are interested in relates to peaceful living continuing stability and progress of the nation.

Referring to the Awami League (Hasina) demand for parliamentary form of Government Shah Azizur Rahman noted that it baffled all [word illegible] to find the member of the AL (Hasina) demanding [word illegible] introduction of the parliamentary system which was not compatible with Baksal philosophy. He urged the concerned party members to change their party manifesto first and then raise demand for parliamentary form of Government to make their stand on the issue a logical and consistent one.

Justifying the proclamation of the state of Emergency, he felt that it was proclaimed at a time when there existed an imminent danger to internal security following the assassination of President Ziaur Rahman. He, however, stated that the proclamation was only an enabling provision and observed that in case the Government decided to formulate the Emergency Rules, it would move a bill for enactment of such rules in the Jatiyo Sangsad. No fundamental rights of the individual citizens have as of now been suspended in effect under the Emergency Proclamation Order, he added. There is either no restriction on processions, demonstrations and meetings, he observed while pointing out that the last presidential and parliamentary elections were held also under a state of emergency.

Shah Azizur Rahman defended the Fifth Constitutional Amendment which, he claimed, ensured the continuity of Martial Law Regulations proclaimed between August 15, 1975 till April 19, 1979. He observed that the transition from Martial Law to democracy including the functioning of the present Parliament, the restoration of the fundamental rights and the formation of a Supreme Judicial Council were all covered under the Martial Law Regulations. This has ironically the case with us, he maintained.

He maintained that President Ziaur Rahman did neither proclaim Martial Law nor dissolve the Parliament. The Martial Law was proclaimed by the Government which came to power after the revolution on August 15, 1975 and the Parliament was dissolved by President Sayem on November 6, 1975, he noted.

He said that the Fourth Constitutional Amendment enacted during the Awami League regime had abridged the fundamental rights of the citizens and had given the President the absolute powers in all matters including the "hiring and firing of judges".

The Leader of the House felt that no analogy could be drawn between the killing of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and that of President Ziaur Rahman. The coup in which Sheikh Mujib was killed a successful one and all successful coups have been taken cognizance of by the higher judicial institutions like the High Court and the Supreme Court, he said. The rebellion against President Ziaur Rahman that led to his assassination was the act of some miscreants and that was crushed, he added.

He termed the allegations of Mr. Sirajul Islam (AL-Hasina) about President Zia's having 472 pieces of "safari suits" as utterly false and baseless. He said that

late President Ziaur Rahman had only five pieces of safari suits made of cloths available in Dacca and made by a local tailor. The similar allegations made by the AL (Hasina) about the late leader's personal assets were also wild and figment of imagination, he added while pointing out that the total bank balances of President and Begum Zia would not exceed Taka 40,000. He noted that the three-roomed house where the late President living had no capacity to contain goods worth Taka 25 crore as alleged by Mr. Sirajul Islam.

Opposition Leader's Speech

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 26 Jun 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan, Leader of the Opposition (AL-H) called for introducing the parliamentary form of government in the country. He suggested that the government should invite all Opposition parties in a meeting to jointly evolve ways for transition to parliamentary democracy.

Participating in the general debate on national budget for the year 1981-82 Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan said that after the death of President Ziaur Rahman a big void had been created in the country and the nation had been plunged into a deep crisis. The crisis has been created due to concentration of all powers in the hands of one man under the presidential system.

The Leader of the Opposition regretted that the government had announced the election date without consulting the Opposition. He said that on May 30 last all the Opposition parties extended full cooperation to the government for upholding the Constitution and the democratic process in the country. He said that due to united efforts of the people, Armed Forces, BDR, Police and Ansars the country was able to overcome the crisis. "The entire credit goes to the nation as a whole for overcoming the crisis" he added.

Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan said that if all the political parties agree to amend the Constitution, the referendum will not be any problem. Earlier he said late President Ziaur Rahman had introduced the system of referendum which was a costly affair.

Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan alleged that the government has launched a propaganda to tarnish the image of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. He said that propaganda on the inventory was motivated and false. He also said that to undermine the role of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman the Treasury Bench had claimed that late President Ziaur Rahman had proclaimed the independence.

Quoting from the book written by Freedom Fighter and the then Major of EPR Major Rafiq, Mr. Khan said that President Zia read out the proclamation of independence announced by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on March 26. Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan said that the message of independence was passed on to Chittagong which was first announced by late Mr. Hannan, an Awami League leader.

Mr. Khan termed President Ziaur Rahman as the killer of democracy. He claimed that President Ziaur Rahman while he was Deputy Chief Martial Law Administrator had dissolved the Parliament. Later replying to Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan, Leader of the House Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman said that the Parliament dissolved

by a Martial Law proclamation on November 6, 1975 when late Maj. Gen. Khaled Musharraf was in power. Ziaur Rahman became Deputy Chief Martial Law Administrator on November 7, 1975.

Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan criticised the government for retaining emergency in the country. He said that under the emergency the Opposition political workers were being harassed. He also demanded fresh enrolment of the voters.

Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan demanded release of all persons convicted under Martial Law and to allow the convicted persons the right of appeal. Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan urged the government not to arrest and harass the political workers. He alleged that even the people of a particular community whom the BNP say vote for us are also being harassed.

Commenting on the budget the Leader of the Opposition said that the budget would benefit only 15 per cent people of the country which include high civil and military officers, industrialists and rising capitalists. He said that the rural development has been ignored in the budget and there was no provision for checking the increase of the number of landless in the country. He claimed that the number of landless people were increasing.

Speaking on the Second Five Year Plan Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan said that the plan was dependent on foreign aid and the aid oriented plan cannot be implemented. He criticised the aid received from the western capitalists adding that the western aids are not without strings. He also said that for the petro-dollars this government had compromised the values of the Liberation War. He demanded that all aid agreements should be placed in the Jatiya Sangsad. Mr. Khan said that the multinational companies were exploiting the country.

EPZ Criticised

The Export Processing Zone was also an instrument for exploitation. Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan criticised the price spiral and inflation in the country. He said that the government had resorted to deficit financing which had aggravated the price situation. He said that the government had failed to achieve the production target in all fields. He, however, said that the food production had increased and that was due to favourable weather. He demanded fair price for agricultural produce and urged the government to fix the jute price at Taka 200.

Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan expressed concern over the deteriorating law and order situation in the country. He said that crimes had increased and there was political and secret killings. The government had failed to tackle the situation, he claimed.

The Opposition Leader demanded dissolution of the Newspaper Management Board and opposed the idea of keeping the newspapers under government control.

Speaking about the foreign policy Mr. Khan alleged that the government had failed to get the due share of the Ganges water and resolving the Talpatty crisis. He said that it was not true that he had said to all India Radio that the island belongs to India. "Talpatty is ours and we must have it," he added. He emphatically said that the government says the island is disputed, I say it is ours.

He, however, said that the Talpatty issue must be resolved peacefully and not by creating chaos.

Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan said that the government had also failed to get the assets from Pakistan and to resolve the problem of stranded Pakistanis. "We are spending Taka six crore every month for them," he added.

Criticising the tax proposals, Mr. Khan said that the new tax would affect the lower income group and the incidence of the taxes would fall on the poor people.

CSO: 4220/7228

KRISHAK SRAMIK LEADER DISCUSSES ELECTION, GOVERNMENT

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 29 Jun 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] Mr. A. S. M. Solaiman, MP and Chief of Krishak Sramik Party, on Sunday urged the government to defer the date of Presidential election till November to facilitate participation of the Opposition parties in the polls, reports BSS.

He, however, spelt out a 10-point precondition, which includes the formation of Electoral College for elections of President and Vice-President for his party's participation in the election.

Addressing a Press conference in Dacca at the Jatiya Press Club, Mr. Solaiman said that the electoral College should comprise nine members from each union who would be elected through adult franchise.

Replying to a question, he said that the Electoral College should be automatically dissolved after the Presidential election and so it was not like the basic democracy system which was once introduced by General Ayub Khan, he pointed out.

The KSP leader said that this system was needed to make the Presidential election simple as it would not be possible for the Opposition to organise the four crore voters.

Mr. Solaiman demanded that the functions and responsibilities of the Prime Minister under a democratic system should be well defined and said that the Prime Minister must have the right to advise the President about formation of the Cabinet.

He said the present system in the country was neither Presidential nor Parliamentary".

The KSP Chief said that there should be provision to make the Minister's responsible to Parliament and the Parliament should have the power to move no confidence motion against the Cabinet.

Mr. Solaiman said that the appointment of the Ministers had to be approved by the Jatiya Sangsad.

He demanded release of all political prisoners irrespective of party affiliations.

The KSP leader told a questioner that his party would not participate in the Presidential election if those demands were not met.

He said that constitutional amendments would be required to meet his demands but there would be no need of referendum.

Mr. Solaiman said that a statement of Syed Azizul Huq Nanna Mia had created confusion about the KSP's joining with the 18-party alliance.

He pointed out that Syed Nanna Mia had no connection with KSP. The decision of the party regarding joining with the 18-party alliance would be taken at its Council Session to be held on August 2.

Mr. Solaiman described as "false" the claim of Nanna Mia that he (Nanna Mia) was elected KSP President at a meeting of the party's national committee on May 26.

He said that Syed Nanna Mia had joined BNP and had tried to seek the BNP nomination in 1979.

CSO: 4220/7235

THREE-PARTY ALLIANCE TO TAKE PART IN ELECTIONS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 26 Jun 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] Leaders of the three-party opposition alliance at a public meeting at the Baitul Mukarram Square on Thursday announced that they would take part in the coming presidential election.

Presided over by Major (Retd.) M. A. Jalil President, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), the meeting was also addressed by JSD General Secretary, A. S. M. Abdur Rab, Mr Shahjahan Siraj MP, Mr Rashed Khan Menon MP, Mr Haider Akbar Khan Rono, General Secretary, Bangladesh Workers' Party, First Secretary of Sramik Krishak Samajbadi Dal, Siddiqur Rahman and another member of the Party Khan Saifur Rahman.

The leaders of the three-party alliance appealed to all the progressive political parties to sit together, confer on election issue and decide a unified programme. "If there is no response from other parties, the three-party alliance will not allow the presidential election to go unchallenged," they declared.

They urged the Government to withdraw the emergency law, repeal all black laws and create conditions for holding of free and fair polls.

Major (Retd.) M. A. Jalil said that they did not want to enter into any debate on the system of Government at present. He said that the alliance considered both the presidential form and parliamentary form as unsuitable for the country. It was only a Parliament, duly represented by professional groups, could solve the problems of the people.

Abdur Rab

Mr A. S. M. Abdur Rab said that the alliance was not afraid of election but it must be free and fair. He said that there was no constitutional crisis in the country. "There is political crisis and it is yet to be over," he said.

He criticised the nomination of Mr Justice Abdus Sattar as a presidential candidate.

He urged the Government to hold enquiry into the killing of Major General Manjoor in order to correctly investigate the case of President Zia's assassination. He said that the three-party alliance was opposed to any killing.

Mr Shahjahan Siraj said that under the present Government the country did not make any progress in the economic fields. He criticised the Government for spending huge sums of money for non-productive sector.

Menon

Mr Rashed Khan Menon said that President Ziaur Rahman was assassinated when the three-party alliance was going to launch a massive movement against his Government. He described the assassination as a part of international conspiracy to divert the attention of the people from real problem.

He said that the people fought the War of Liberation to establish an exploitation-free society with a socialist economy. The hope of the people was frustrated by the betrayal of the Awami League Government he said.

He said that the Awami League which had fought for democracy for years killed democracy and imposed a one-man rule in the country against the wishes of the people.

Haider Rano

Mr Haider Akbar Khan Rano said that the root of the conspiracy which killed President Zia was deep-rooted and far away from the common man's imagination.

Siddiquir Rahman

Mr Siddiquir Rahman said that President Zia was killed because the super powers wanted to make Bangladesh subservient to them. 'Such killings take place whenever a leader tries to lead his country towards progress and tries to pursue independent policy' he said.

CSO: 4220/7230

AMENDMENT TO ENABLE SATTAR ELECTION INTRODUCED

Dacca THE BAKGLAVESH OBSERVER in English 2 Jul 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] The Constitution (Sixth Amendment) Act, 1981 was introduced in the House by Prime Minister and Leader of the House Shah Azizur Rahman on Wednesday.

The entire Opposition excepting Mr. Rafiqullah Chowdhury of Gono Front staged a walk out protesting the introduction of the Sixth Amendment Bill.

In the objective of the Bill it is said that the Amendment seeks to remove certain anomalies in the Constitution regarding the eligibility of a sitting President and Vice-President for election to the office of the President. Under the Amendment of Article 51 for Clause (4) the following shall be substituted, namely "if a Vice-President is elected as President, he shall be deemed to have vacated his office on the date on which he enters upon the office of President." The Amendment of Article 66 in clause (2a) when passed will read as follows for the words "he is a Prime Minister", the words and commas "he is a President, Vice-President and Prime Minister" shall be substituted.

Replying to the objection and protest of the Opposition, Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman said that the Amendment was not "substantial but technical." He said that even if President Ziaur Rahman were alive this Amendment would have been necessary. This "certain anomaly" did not come before the notice of President Ziaur Rahman and so it was not amended when President Zia was alive the Prime Minister said. This anomaly, he further added, was an "inadvertent lapse" when the Constitution was "democratized" in 1978.

The Prime Minister refuted the Opposition's charge and said that the Amendment was not introduced for Acting President Mr. Justice Satter or for BNP but for the institution and the nation. He said that Constitution is not a closed chapter and, if necessary more Amendments would be introduced.

Replying to the comments on the fitness and health of BNP presidential candidate, Acting President Mr. Justice Abdus Sattar, the Prime Minister said that such comments on an "honest and able person like our candidate were unfair". He told the Opposition members "if you meet our candidate you will find him quite fit." He assured all that Mr. Justice Abdus Sattar with his present health could give leadership to the nation for a long time. He told the Opposition that not only the old ones had diabetes but the younger ones could also suffer from the disease. He said that the Opposition was afraid of Mr. Justice Abdus Sattar's

nomination and so the Opposition members were trying to raise a storm over a cup of tea by protesting the introduction of the Amendment.

Referring to Awami League (Hasina) members, Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman said that if the Bangabandhu were alive such Amendments for reelection would have been necessary. 'Bangabandhu has no substitute and he does not come in every decade,' the Prime Minister said.

Earlier, the Opposition members raised a point of order objecting to the introduction of the amendment without the stipulated seven-day notice. They said that no bill could be introduced without this notice and the Speaker should not also waive this procedure. They also argued that the Leader of the House did not give reasonable explanation for the necessity of introducing the amendment. They accused the Government of introducing an amendment of the Constitution which is the sacred document of the nation only to "suit the interest of one single person and his election".

Leaders of the Opposition Mr Assaduzzaman Khan Mr. Yusuf Salahuddin Mr. Sudhangshu Shekhar Halder of Awami League (Hasina), Mr. Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury (AL-Mizan), Mr. M. A. Matin (ML-Sabur) Mr. Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury (ML-Siddiqui) Mr. Suranjit Sen Gupta (Ekota Party), Mr. Rashed Khan Menon (Gonotantrik Andolan) Mr. Shahjahan Siraj and Mirza Abdul Latif of JSD, Mr. A. S. M. Solaiman (Gono Front) and Mr. Rezaul Alam Khondokar (IDL) talked on the point of order objecting to the introduction of the bill without proper notice.

Replying to the objection of the Opposition members Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman said that the Speaker had the right to waive the rule for seven days' notice in introducing a bill. He said that in 1975 the Fourth Amendment was introduced without proper notice and that set a bad precedence in the Parliament. At that time there was no discussion on the amendment but, he assured this time we would allow any discussion on the Sixth Amendment Bill.

The Opposition members retorted back and told the Leader of the House that one bad precedence does not justify creation of another. They said that history had ample evidence that no bad precedence could do anything good for the nation. They warned the ruling party of the same consequences of the bad precedence.

Deputy Speaker Mr. Sultan Ahmed Chowdhury who was in chair during the session in his ruling said that the Speaker was satisfied with the reasons for introducing the bill. He ruled out the point of order of the Opposition and advised the Opposition members to speak if they wanted to oppose the introduction of the bill.

Opposing the introduction of the bill Leader of the Opposition termed the amendment as malafide. He said the BNP always talks of upholding the ideals of their late leader President Ziaur Rahman but in their deeds the BNP members were violating his policies. President Ziaur Rahman, he said, had given the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution in which the Vice-President is not eligible to contest the presidential election as he holds a post of profit. While BNP was mourning the death of President Ziaur Rahman it was trying to amend the Constitution of the late President only in the "interest of one single person". He said that the BNP had introduced the amendment when the Election Commission had already announced the election schedule and the ruling party had nominated the Acting President as their

Presidential candidate. The BNP, he observed, was trying to legalise the nomination of the Acting President by amending the Constitution. He criticised the BNP for not moving any Amendment for a parliamentary form of government which the people wanted now.

Mr. Sudhangshu Shekhar Halder said that the structure and the very substance of the Constitution was going to be changed by the amendment. He said that no amendment should be introduced only to suit the interest of a single person.

Mr. Yusuf Salahuddin said that there was no need to bring this amendment. He observed that the amendment was not for the nation but for "one man".

Demanding the withdrawal of the Bill Mr. Shajahan Siraj said that the BNP members who took the oath to uphold the Constitution their leader President Ziaur Rahman had given were now trying to amend it in the interest of one single person. He demanded a referendum on the amendment.

Mr. Rashed Khan Menon said that the amendment had been moved only to legalise the nomination of a particular person totally ignoring the interest of the people.

Mr Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury advised the ruling party not to introduce any amendment in the interest of one single person. He said that the Opposition would support any amendment if it was aimed at introducing parliamentary form of Government.

Mr Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury termed the amendment as a personalised bill for "one man's interest and one man's election". He criticised the ruling party of creating another bad precedence only to remain in power.

Mr. Suranjit Sen Gupta said that the amendment had become necessary not for the interest of the nation but to suit the interest of the BNP presidential candidate. He challenged the BNP candidate to resign the post of Acting President and see how he could save his deposit money in the election. He observed that the Amendment was introduced to meet the crisis in BNP regarding the nomination of its presidential candidate."

Mr. Mohammad Toaha (Samyabadi Dal) said that no constitutional amendment should be introduced "only to meet the crisis in BNP". He demanded amendment for introducing parliamentary system and he said that both the Government and the Opposition should move a joint amendment on this.

IDL member Mr Rezaul Alam Khondokar said that the Sixth Amendment would meet the same fate of the Fourth Amendment. He termed the amendment for perpetuating the rule of one man of the ruling party.

Professor Muzaffar Ahmed said that while the Government was not eager to introduce any amendment for parliamentary system it did not hesitate to move an amendment to serve the interest of its candidate.

After the Opposition members spoke opposing the amendment the Leader of the Opposition declared that they were staging a walk out in protest against the introduction of the bill. Opposition members followed him.

IDL leader Moulana Abdur Rahim who entered the House minute before the walk-out took over the microphone and announced his party decision to walk out in protest against the introduction of the bill. He said that when all Opposition parties and people were demanding amendment for parliamentary system the ruling party had totally ignored their sentiment and moved this amendment only to elect its candidate". With these words he walked out of the House with his members.

The Deputy Speaker allowed the Leader of the House to introduce the bill. The Leader of the House sought the permission of the House to introduce the bill and in the absence of the Opposition and Independent Members he introduced the Bill.

As soon as the Leader of the House introduced the Bill the Opposition members led by the Leader of the Opposition re-entered the House and Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan told the Leader of the House and BNP Members that the Opposition would not allow the Government to pass the Bill without challenge.

Without allowing the session to continue further the Deputy Speaker adjourned the House till this (Thursday) morning.

CSO: 4220/7243

BNP NOMINATES ACTING PRESIDENT SATTAR FOR PRESIDENT

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 23 Jun 81 p 1

[Text] Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has unanimously nominated Acting President Mr Justice Abdus Sattar as the presidential candidate for the ensuing election scheduled to be held on September 21.

The National Standing Committee of the Party which is the highest policy making body of BNP has endorsed the recommendation of the extended meeting of BNP held on Monday morning. The extended committee recommended the lone candidature of Mr. Justice Abdus Sattar as the party's presidential nominee.

The National Standing Committee meeting was attended by Dr. A. Q. M. Badruddoza Choudhury, State Minister Mr. Jamiruddin Sarker Dr A. F. M. Yusuf, Sheikh Razzak Ali, M. P. Prof. Md. Ekramul Huq, State Minister Syed Mahibul Hasan, Mr. Abdur Razzak Choudhury Dr. Mrs. Amina Rahman M.P. and Barrister Nazmul Huda.

Shah Azizur Rahman, Vice-Chairman of the Party who is also the member of the standing committee presided over the Standing Committee meeting.

Earlier in the morning the extended committee of the BNP consisting of Speaker, Deputy Speaker members of the National Standing Committee, office-bearers of the BNP Executive Committee, all members of the Council of Ministers, all members of the BNP Parliamentary Party, Presidents of all district units of the party and President and Secretaries of all front organisations unanimously recommended the candidature of Mr. Justice Abdus Sattar as the BNP Presidential candidate to the National Standing Committee for nomination. The name of Justice Abdus Sattar was proposed by State Minister for Youth Development Mr Abul Kashem and was seconded by Mr S. A. Bari A. T.

Talking to newsmen at his chamber at the Jatiya Sangsad Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman said there was no dissenting voice and the decision was unanimous. He said if there is any group against this decision within the party they were free to make a statement.

He further said that the mechanism for nominating the Presidential candidate was discussed in the meeting and it was decided that the extended meeting would recommend the candidature of the presidential candidate to the National Standing Committee which will act as the Parliamentary Party.

Replying to another question Shah Azizur Rahman ruled out the possibility of changing the polls date.

When asked if some other parties would support BNP candidate Shah Azir said "we will discuss this with different parties".

BSS adds: The decision to nominate Justice Sattar who is also the acting chairman of the party was approved at a meeting of the National Standing Committee of the BNP presided over by party Vice Chairman Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman.

Life Sketch

Born in 1906 Mr. Justice Abdus Sattar received his education in Calcutta. He obtained M. A. and B. L. degrees in 1928 and 1929 respectively and started legal career. He was Councillor Calcutta Corporation in 1939 and Assessor Member, Calcutta Improvement Tribunal from 1940 to 1942. He was enrolled as an Advocate in the Calcutta High Court in 1941. He was appointed Chief Executive Officer Calcutta Corporation in 1945.

Mr. Justice Sattar joined the Dacca High Court as an Advocate in 1950. He was elected Member of the second Constituent Assembly of Pakistan in 1954.

Mr. Justice Sattar was Minister for Interior and Education of Pakistan in 1956. He was appointed a Judge of the High Court of East Pakistan in 1957 and of the Supreme Court of Pakistan in 1968. He was appointed Chief Election Commissioner of Pakistan in 1969.

Mr. Justice Sattar was Chairman of the Board of Directors of Bangladesh Life Insurance Corporation in 1973 and Chairman of the Bangladesh Journalists Wage Board in 1974. He was Convener, Bangladesh National Group for Nomination of Members to the International Court of Justice. He is President of Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs.

Mr. Justice A. Sattar had been Special Assistant to the President since 1975 and was in charge of Ministry of Law and Parliamentary Affairs till his appointment as Vice President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on June 3 1977. Mr. Justice Sattar took active part in politics and was closely associated with Sher e Bangla A. K. Fazlul Haque and Mr. H. S. Subharawardy.

Mr. Justice Sattar has performed the Haj. He has visited a number of Asian and European countries. He takes interest in special work. His hobbies are reading and gardening.

CSO: 4220/7222

BANGLADESH

MUSLIM LEAGUE NOMINATES SABUR FOR PRESIDENT

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 29 Jun 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] The Central Working Committee of Bangladesh Muslim League (Sabur) in its meeting on Sunday decided to contest the ensuing Presidential election and nominated party chief Khan A Subur as party candidate. Kazi Abdul Kader Party's General Secretary announced this decision in a Press release on Sunday.

The meeting demanded shifting of the date of Presidential election to November 23 instead of September 21. The resolution said that due to month of Ramadhan and rainy season election campaign would be difficult. The meeting called upon the people irrespective of caste and creed to extend support to ML "to establish Islamic Republic a welfare state". It may be mentioned that Muslim League (Sabur) is not a component of the 18 party alliance. Party's other faction led by Mr. Justice B. A. Siddiky is a component of the 18 party alliance.

CSO: 4220/7235

COMMUNISTS, OTHERS SCORE ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 21 Jun 81 p 12

[Text] The Communist Party of Bangladesh which had only the other day called upon the political parties not to raise any controversy on the form of Government at this juncture joined eight other parties in criticising the Government for its "unilateral" action in announcing the date of the coming presidential election.

A statement issued on Saturday by the leaders of nine political parties said that the announcement of the election date reflected the "autocratic" character of the Government. The statement said the Government had by-passed the Opposition demand for switching over to parliamentary form of Government. The announcement of the election date the nine party feel had only demonstrated the narrowness of the Government. The nine parties also feel that the present situation was not conducive to the holding of election. By announcing the date of presidential election the Government had only vindicated its anti-people stand. The nine party warned the Government that it would have to bear the responsibility for all the consequences arising out of the Government's decision.

The signatories to the statement were leaders of AL(H) JSD NAP (Muzaffar) Ekota Party Workers Party CPB NAP(H) Samajbadi Dal and Gano Azadi League.

A political scientist asked to comment on the Opposition stand on the announcement of election date said he did not know of any instance where a Government in office had sought Opposition's view before announcing the date of election. He said the announcement of election date had always been the prerogative of the Government.

The political scientist said he had never come across a situation like the present one in which the Opposition is objecting to the holding of elections.

CSO: 4220/7219

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SPEAKS AT CHITTAGONG PORT

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 29 Jun 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] Chittagong, June 28:--Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Jamaluddin Ahmad disclosed today that a urea fertilizer plant costing Taka 800 crore would be set up here under the private-sector, reports BSS.

The proposed plant would have an annual production capacity 5,60,000 tons.

He was inaugurating Taka 1.35 crore newly built lighterage jetty of Chittagong Port at Sadarghat here this morning. The Jetty with four hundred feet in length and about 42 feet breadth will facilitate berthing of small coasters for lighterage purpose. Syed Mansurul Huq, Chairman of Chittagong Port Authority also spoke in the function.

Mr. Jamaluddin Ahmad said that Taka 750 crore urea fertilizer plant now under construction on the other side of the River Karnaphuli would be completed by 1984. The plant with an annual production capacity of five lakh tons is being constructed under public sector.

The Deputy Prime Minister said negotiations are on, with some foreign countries regarding the setting up of the urea plant under private sector. He hoped that the negotiations would be fruitful.

Mr. Jamaluddin Ahmad said that a new steel mill based on natural gas would be set up in Chittagong in the near future. The mill, he said, would produce sponge iron. He said that the existing Chittagong Steel Mills would be expanded to enable it to increase its production for this purpose, he added. Necessary allocation has been made under the Second Five-Year Plan.

He said that there was an increasing pressure on the Chittagong Port with the increase in the volume of trade as well as cargo handling. The port, he said, has to be expanded and modernised to meet the increasing need. Under the Second Five-Year Plan Tk. 200 crore has been allocated for expansion and development of Chittagong Port. He further added, the entire expenditure for port expansion would be met from its own resources he said.

He said that the development of national economy was inextricably linked with the development of Chittagong Port as it is regarded as the economic gateway to Bangladesh.

Mr. Jamaluddin Ahmad said that the late President Ziaur Rahman had introduced a massive development programme in the country because he was anxious to bring about peace and happiness for the teeming millions. We will never lag behind in implementing the development programmes left before us by our beloved late President, he said.

The Deputy Prime Minister called upon the people to extend whole-hearted cooperation to the Government to carry on economic, social and political programmes at its hand. He hoped that there would be no hindrance on our onward march. He said that the commissioning of the lighterage jetty at Sadarghat was yet another achievement for Chittagong Port Authority.

Earlier, on Saturday Mr. Jamaluddin Ahmad addressed three condolence meetings at Situkunda Mirsaraj and Ramgarh. In these meetings he explained to the people the massive development programmes implemented during President Zia's rule. He urged the people to remain united and extend whole hearted cooperation to the Government in carrying on its uplift programmes.

CSO: 4220/7235

BANGLADESH

DEMOCRATIC LEAGUE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 30 Jun 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] Democratic League at its national executive committee meeting held on Sunday demanded Parliamentary form of Government with sovereignty of the Parliament.

The meeting held under the chairmanship of Khondakar Moshtaq Ahmed at his residence at Agamasih Lane hailed the 18-party alliance and said that it has been formed for the greater interest of the nation at this hour of crisis.

The meeting in a resolution demanded repeal of black laws including Press and Publication Act release of all political prisoners now under detention and those convicted under Martial Law. It also criticised the Government for ignoring the Opposition political parties on the announcement of presidential polls date.

In another resolution, the meeting expressed its concern over the presence of Indian warships at South Talpatty and recent airport incident involving the illegal import of electronic equipment by the Embassy of USSR.

The meeting also expressed its deep condolence at the assassination of President Ziaur Rahman and conveyed its sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

CSO: 4220/7237

APPOINTMENT OF ELECTION RETURN OFFICERS ANNOUNCED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 21 Jun 81 p 1

[Text] The Election Commission in a Gazette notification issued on Friday has appointed the Secretary of the Election Commission the Returning Officer and all Sub-Divisional Officers of the country Assistant Returning Officers for conducting the presidential polls to be held on September 21. The Assistant Returning Officers have been entrusted with the responsibility of the areas falling within their respective jurisdiction for the purpose of election to the office of the President, says an Election Commission Press release.

It further says the above mentioned appointments have been made in pursuance of the provisions of Sub-section (1) of Section 4 of the Presidential Election Ordinance, 1978 (Ordinance No. XIV of 1978).

It may be mentioned here that the Election Commission has already announced the schedule for the ensuing presidential election and this was disclosed by the Chief Election Commissioner, Mr. Justice A. K. M. Nurul Islam, on Wednesday in a nationwide radio and television address.

As per the schedule, nomination papers will be received by the Returning Officer on August 10 and scrutiny of the nomination papers filed will be held on August 11, while the last date for withdrawal of candidature remains on August 17, 1981.

CSO: 4220/7219

GANOTANTRIK CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 25 Jun 81 p 3

[Text] The three-day meeting of the Central Committee of Ganotantrik Party which concluded in Dacca on Monday said that the landing of troops on South Talpatty island by India backed by Soviet hegemonism the coup attempt at Chittagong and the assassination of President Ziaur Rahman within three weeks of the incident were not isolated events.

Presided over by Mr. Nurul Huda Mirza, Chairman of the Party, the meeting in a resolution said that although timely steps by patriotic people and the armed forces foiled the attempt by the identified local and foreign enemies of independent national existence to capture power, the planned and surprise attack had depended the political crisis in the country. Under such situation it has become clear that the present political system based on centralisation of powers in one hand was not suitable for the country, the resolution said.

In another resolution the meeting said that the occupation of South Talpatty by expansionist India was still continuing. And although the identified enemies of independence and sovereignty temporarily stepped back, they were yet to be suppressed. Under such situation the people have become more vocal about the demand for establishment of a sovereign parliament. The meeting criticised the hurried and unilateral announcement of the date of Presidential election by which, the meeting aid, effort had been made to continue the autocratic system. Such lack of foresightedness would further deepen the crisis instead of solving it, the meeting said.

The meeting called upon all patriotic and democratic-minded people to build united resistance against hegemonism expansionism, aggression and conspiracies for upholding national independence and for establishing the political and economic rights. The meeting also demanded immediate withdrawal of emergency, said a press release.

CSO: 4220/7226

OPPOSITION COALITION CALLS FOR SHIFTING POLL DATE

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 1 Jul 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] Leaders of the 18-party alliance at a public meeting at Baitul Mukarram on Tuesday called for switching over to parliamentary form of government. They held that only a democratic government responsible to the Parliament could ensure solution of all national issues.

The leaders said that it is possible for the Government to hold a parliamentary election on the basis of adult franchise within 180 days by bringing necessary amendments to the Constitution through the present Jatiya Sangsad.

The meeting of the 18 party alliance held under the chairmanship of Mr. Ataur Rahman Khan MP, President of the Bangladesh Jatiya League, made six demands including shifting of the date of presidential election to the third week of November from September 21, offering of equal rights and facilities to all the Opposition political parties in all the publicity media including radio and television withdrawal of emergency, barring the ruling party candidate in the election from using government funds and vehicles for electioneering repeal of all black laws including the Press and Publication Act Special Powers Act, present labour laws and lastly release of all political prisoners.

The public meeting was addressed by Khondakar Mustaq Ahmed, Mr. Justice B. A. Siddiky Maulana Abdur Rahim of JDL, Kazi Zafar Ahmed of UPP, Shafiul Alam Prodhan of Jatiya Ganatantrik Party Nuzur Rahman of NAP (B), Maulana Abdul Matin of Labour Party, Mrs. Amena Begum of Bangla Jatiya League M. Formanullah Khan of Bangladesh Islamic Party, Nurul Huda Mirza of Ganatantrik Party Syed Azizul Huq (Nanna Miah of KSP, Mr. Nurul Huq Mehdi Mr. Abu Nasser Khan Bhashani (NAP) Mr. T. Ali of Muslim League Mr. D. Barua of Samyabadi Dal Syed Manzurul Ahsan of Nezam-e-Islam.

Addressing the meeting Khondakar Mushtak Ahmed demanded of the government to hold a parliamentary election on the basis of direct franchise. He said that presidential form of government cannot bring welfare to the people as it leads to dictatorship.

He said that the present Government was sitting on a living volcano as it did not take lessons from the past. The Democratic League chief criticised the Government for unilaterally announcing the date of presidential election hastily only to stay in power. He termed it as a selfish trick by the ruling party.

Criticising the nomination of Mr. Justice Abdus Sattar by BNP, as presidential candidate Khondakar Mushtaq Ahmed said that the Acting President could not seek election constitutionally as he was holding the office of profit.

Slating the move of the ruling party to amend the Constitution to legalise the nomination of Mr. Justice Abdus Sattar, the DL chief said if it is done, it will be audacity of the ruling party.

Kazi Zafar Ahmed, Chairman of the United Peoples Party in his address criticised the Foreign Policy of the Government. He termed the present Foreign Policy as "submissive". He was also critical of the illegal import of specialised electronic equipment by the Soviet Embassy in Dacca recently. He said that such equipment were very much dangerous for our sovereignty.

Mr Ataur Rahman Khan in his presidential speech, strongly favoured parliamentary form of government. Mr Khan alleged that the Constitution of the country was being defied for legalising the candidature of Mr Justice Abdus Sattar by the ruling party. He demanded shifting of the date of presidential election to November as the Ramzan and the rainy season would make it difficult for electioneering.

Criticising the weak Foreign Policy he said the country's sovereignty was in danger in the wake of Indian aggression at Talpatty.

CSO: 4220/7240

ACTING PRESIDENT GREETES NEW CCP CHAIRMAN

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 1 Jul 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] Acting President Mr. Justice Abdus Sattar has sent the following message of warmest felicitations to Mr Hu Yaobang, Chairman of the Central Committee of Communist Party of the People's Republic of China on his assumption of the high office of the Chairmanship of the Party says a PID handout, issued on Tuesday.

In his message the Acting President said that under Mr Hu Yaobang's able guidance and leadership the friendly people of China will continue their onward march towards peace, progress and prosperity.

The Acting President said that as close neighbours China and Bangladesh are bound by ties of friendship dating back to centuries. He also said that during Mr Hu Yaobang's term of office Bangladesh looks forward to further widening and deepening of these friendly ties and increasing cooperation between these two countries in all fields.

On behalf of the Government and the people of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and on my own behalf I have pleasure in extending to your excellency our warmest felicitations on your assumption of the high office of the Chairman of the Central Committee of Communist Party of the People's Republic of China.

We are confident that under your able guidance and leadership the friendly people of China will continue their onward march towards peace, progress and prosperity.

As close neighbours China and Bangladesh are bound by ties of friendship dating back to centuries. During your term of office we look forward to further widening and deepening of these friendly ties and increasing cooperation between our two countries in all fields.

"I avail of this opportunity to wish your excellency happiness, long life and success and the friendly people of China continued progress and prosperity.

CSO: 4220/7240

BANGLADESH

UNITED PEOPLE'S PARTY CHAIRMAN RESIGNS FROM PARTY

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 2 Jul 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] Mr A. K. M. Golam Kabir, Vice-Chairman of the United People's Party, on Wednesday resigned his post and primary membership of the party condemning the "anti-state and anti-people" stand taken by the party. The evaluation by the UPP of late President Zia was totally wrong and biased the statement added.

Mr Kabir in his statement said that the leadership of UPP wants to hide the truth and is afraid to announce the party decision for the fear of the people. Such attitude on the part of the party leadership was nothing but hypocrisy he added "I consider the present role of the UPP as being devoid of political honesty, dubious and deceiving" he pointed out.

The statement said that "during my long association with the UPP I have found that the party gives importance to tactics rather than principles. At the time of joining the Jatiyatabadi Front it was said that it was for tactical reasons and similar argument was advanced while quitting the Front. Mr Kabir reasoned that the condolence resolution sent to Begum Zia by the Central Committee of the party was also tactical. And it was not possible to accept such series of tactics obviously adopted to fulfil somebody's personal gain and ambition Mr Kabir asserted.

Mr Golam Kabir in his statement viewed that he was concerned about the adventurism and wrong politics of UPP following its underestimation of late President Ziaur Rahman at the party Central Committee meeting on May 30 and May 31. "I became disrespectful of the party and its leadership when I saw that they were unconcerned and jovial while the whole nation was mourning and anxious after the tragic death of President Ziaur Rahman. I feel that personal vengeance was given priority over the uncertain future of the people and the country and this was no honest political thinking" the statement pointed out.

CSO: 4220/7243

AGREEMENT FOR JAPANESE AID SIGNED IN DACCA

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 23 Jun 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] Japan will provide Bangladesh 3.44 billion yen (over Tk. 26 crores) as grant for the establishment of a college of agricultural science and a national broadcasting house under two separate exchange of notes signed in Dacca on Monday reports BSS.

The grant of two billion yen (Taka 15.24 crore) for Bangladesh college of agricultural sciences to be set up at Joydevpur will be utilised by Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute. The other grant of 1.44 billion yen (about Taka 11 crore) for national broadcasting house to be built at Sher-e Banglanagar will be used by Radio Bangladesh. The grants will be tied for procurement of equipment materials and services.

Japan which becomes the single largest contributor of bilateral aid to Bangladesh during the current financial year has provided about 226 million dollars as loans and grants. She (Japan) has been providing substantial economic assistance both in the form of grants and loans in vital sectors of the economy also topped the list of bilateral donors in 1978-79 with an aid amounting to 192 million U.S. dollars.

The exchange of notes were signed by Mr. A. K. M. Muhith Secretary External Resources Division Ministry of Finance and Mr. Hirohiko Otsuka Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh on behalf of their respective governments.

Some of the projects recently financed under Japanese Government assistance are the Institute of Cardiovascular diseases BRTC central workshop Foodgrain Store House and the Central Extension Research Development Institute (CERDI). The projects which were either executed or under execution are Sonargaon Hotel Goalpara-Mongal-Barisal 132 K. V. transmission line procurement of 4 ocean-going vessel barge mounted power plant at Khulna Bheramara-Faridpur Barisal 132 K.V. transmission line BMR and E of Karnaphully Rayon Mills and Bakhrabad [word illegible] Field Development. Besides Japan will also be one of the largest co-financiers of the proposed Chittagong Urea Fertilizer Plant.

With the signing of notes on Monday total Japanese aid to Bangladesh since its birth rose to 222.196 billion yen (1058.07) million U.S. dollars) making her (Japan) the 2nd largest bilateral donor to this country.

The Japanese Ambassador said the signing symbolised Tokyo's continued determination to cooperate fully with the people and the Government of Bangladesh at its hour of difficulties. He said it also reflected Japan's eagerness to help build new Bangladesh a policy pursued by late President Ziaur Rahman. He assured that Japan would not spare any effort to assist Bangladesh in her development endeavours.

Mr. Otsuka said during the last three years Japan has increased its global economic assistance by 100 per cent and Bangladesh became the second recipient country. Paying high tributes to the leadership of President Ziaur Rahman the Japanese envoy said the late President was a great friend of Japan and visited his country twice.

Reciprocating Japanese gesture of goodwill Mr. Muhith said the signing demonstrates continuity of economic activities with that country. He said it indicates that economic cooperation with various other countries will grow.

CSO: 4220/7222

DOCUMENT DETAILS APPROVED CHANGES IN '81-82 BUDGET

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 30 Jun 81 p 8

[Text] Notifications for implementing the announcement of the Finance Minister Mr. Saifur Rahman on Friday regarding some taxation proposals will soon be issued by the Internal Resources Division of the Finance Ministry an official source said on Monday reports BSS.

The notification will cover realignment of fiscal measures on various items.

A Press release issued on Monday said in his reply on June 26 at the end of the general discussion on the Budget proposals of 1981-82 Minister for Finance announced the following changes in the budgetary proposals after discussion with the Ministry of Law and Parliamentary Affairs about the legal aspects. The manner of giving effect to the announcements of the Finance Minister has been decided upon and necessary notifications are being issued.

Customs: (1) announcement of the Finance Minister: The proposal regarding the conversion of specific rate into an advalorem one and enhancing the same to 125 per cent adval from Taka 11.00 per KG, on betelnuts is withdrawn.

Implementation: an amendment notification is being issued subjecting betelnuts to the specific duty of Taka 11.00 per KG, as before giving effect on and from the 6th June 1981 (the date of announcement of budget).

(2) announcement of the Finance Minister: Withdrawal of the duty concession and sales tax exemption from the machinery and spares imported subsequent to the initial installation BMR and E will be modified subjecting these articles to a concessional duty rate of 40 per cent plus normal sales tax.

Implementation: a notification is being issued in implementation of the above announcement giving effect from the 6th June 1981 the date of budget announcement.

(3) announcement of the Finance Minister: The proposal regarding unifying the rates of duty at 40 per cent from 30 per cent 75 per cent and 15 per cent on fabrics having 85 per cent or more by weight of cotton in which the constituent year is below 57 counts (excepting jeans broken jeans, cord denim twill etc.) is withdrawn.

Implementation:--A notification going back to the tariffs of 30 per cent 75 per cent and 150 per cent depending on the counts of such fabrics as prevailed prior to the Budget proposals (except jeans cord etc.) is being issued.

Excise:--(4) announcement in Budget speech of the Finance Minister: It was proposed to impose 10 per cent adval duty on wooden furniture. Accordingly a new item 12.04 wooden furniture all sorts with 10 per cent duty was inserted in the First Schedule to the Excises and Salt Act, 1944 vide Second Schedule of the Finance Bill, 1981.

The Finance Minister also declared in the Parliament on June 26 that furniture of value up to Taka 250.00 per piece would be Exempted from excise duty.

Implementation:--An exemption notification is being issued under Section 12A of Excises and Salt Act 1944 with the concurrence of the Ministry of Law who have agreed to this procedure.

(5) announcement of Finance Minister's Budget speech: aluminium fittings and fixtures were subjected to duty of 20 per cent under heading No. 10.07 in the First Schedule to the Excises and Salt Act 1944 vide Second Schedule of the Finance Bill, 1981. The Finance Minister declared before the Parliament on June 26 reduction of rate of duty from 20 per cent to 10 per cent.

Implementation:--This is being implemented through an exemption notification under Section 12A of the Excises and Salt Act 1944 being issued with the concurrence of the Ministry of Law.

CSO: 4220/7237

ISRAELI RAID ON IRAQI NUCLEAR PLANT CONDEMNED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 23 Jun 81 p 1

[Text] United Nations, June 22.--Bangladesh has condemned the Israeli bombing of a nuclear plant in Iraq as "an unprovoked act of aggression", reports BSS.

Speaking at the United Nations Security Council debate on Wednesday last Bangladesh permanent representative K. M. Kaiser said the international community must condemn with one voice the irresponsible act of Israel and ensure that it was not repeated.

He said, "we view the situation with grave alarm". He said that on a stunned world the news broke of the sneak attack of Israel creating chaos and anarchy and sabotaging the attempts to establishment of rule of international law and efforts to control the demon of brute and naked use of military might in the region.

Bangladesh has repeatedly pointed at the root cause of the Middle East problem was Israel's greed for dominance, its arrogance, and its utter contemptuous disregard of all legal and human rights of other people of the region.

He said that the growing armed might of Israel poses a threat not only to the Middle East but also to the international peace and security and the principles and values which the international community is committed to uphold and defend.

Mr. Kaiser said that the denial of the inalienable rights to homeland to the Palestinians in their own land, usurpation of Arab and Palestinian territories by force and Israel's repeated aggressive activities in Lebanon were causing repeated set-back to establishment of peace in the region.

CSO: 4220/7221

AWAMI LEAGUE HEAD URGES PARLIAMENTARY GOVERNMENT

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 27 Jun 81 p 12

[Text] Chittagong: June 25:--Mr Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury Chief of Awami League (M) today reiterated his call for introduction of Parliamentary democracy in the country to avoid confusion and constitutional crisis; reports BSS.

Addressing members of the Chittagong District Bar Association at the Bar Library Hall here in the afternoon he said that decentralisation of administrative power was necessary in the interest of the people.

The elected representatives of the people should have power and authority while the officers and employees of the government should be made responsible to the people's representatives for quick solution of problems.

Mr. Chowdhury said that many laws introduced during the colonial rule were still in vogue and that those were meant for oppression and divide and rule. He called for introduction of new laws to save the people from harassment in an independent and sovereign country colonial laws should not be allowed to function said adding that the people who are the source of power should also exercise authority otherwise their power would be meaningless.

The Awami League (M) Chief was critical of the Presidential system of government and said that under this system power concentrates in one hand for which administration can not be run smoothly. He said that 1972 making provision for Presidential system he pleaded for restoration of 1972 constitution and said that his party would continue to reiterate the demand.

Mr. Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury also called for evolving a welfare state by taking all good principles from different systems there is no harm in accepting good principles from different systems. There is no harm in accepting good things from any economic or political system he said. He opined that problems facing the country cannot be solved by increasing number of officers and employees but through evolving a system for quick solution of the problems.

Paying tributes to Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy Maulana Bhashani and Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Mr. Chowdhury said that the contributions of the late leaders should have to be acknowledged by one and all. He said that he had no hesitation in acknowledging the contributions of late President Ziaur Rahman as a freedom fighter for as President of the country.

Regarding the present constitution of the country he said it can be amended through an elaborate discussion with the Opposition or by holding a referendum.

CSO: 4220/7231

ISLAMIC DEMOCRATIC LEAGUE TO TAKE PART IN POLL

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 28 Jun 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] Islamic Democratic League on Saturday announced its decision to participate in the ensuing Presidential elections scheduled to be held on September 21 next. The decision to participate in the election has been taken as part of the party's programme to implement Islamic ideology and introduce parliamentary democracy in the country.

Addressing a Press conference on Saturday the Chairman of IDL Moulana Abdur Rahim, MP said that the country was now facing grave political and constitutional crisis after the tragic death of President Ziaur Rahman. The neighbouring country in collusion with foreign power is trying to undo our independence and national sovereignty to fulfil expansionist design he added.

The chief of IDL, a component of the 18 party alliance, told the Press conference that India has forcibly occupied South Talpatty Island and the Indian troops and warships have entered the territorial waters of Bangladesh. Such Indian aggression amounted to undeclared war against Bangladesh he viewed.

Moulana Abdur Rahim said that an eleven member subcommittee has been formed by the Executive Committee of IDL to discuss about nominating a Presidential candidate and exchange views with like minded parties.

CSO: 4220/7233

LEADERS DISCUSS DEFENSE BUDGET IN PARLIAMENT

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 28 Jun 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman on Saturday stressed that consolidation and stabilisation of democracy was the strongest bulwark against any adventurism in the country reports BSS.

He further pointed out that the best way to keep the country free from the curse of Martial Law was to uphold the democracy and democratic values and discourage strictly the politics of terrorism and destruction.

The Prime Minister who was speaking on the demand for grant for the Defence sector in the Jatiya Sangsad in the evening made it clear that Martial Law was imposed in the country in the past only when some one had indulged in capturing power through the act of destruction and terrorism throwing away all democratic values to the wind.

He reiterated that democracy was like a child. We should nourish and nurture democracy with care and exercise utmost tolerance to the views of others so that it could consolidate and stabilise in the country to withstand all onslaughts against it.

Shah Azizur Rahman who is also the Leader of the House was happy to note that late President Ziaur Rahman during his tenure had been able to make our Armed Forces respectful to democracy. He was confident that the country would not be taken over by Martial Law in future "if we do not deviate from the path of democracy."

He therefore laid emphasis on the stabilisation of democracy in the country saying "it is the earnest desire of our Armed Forces that democracy sovereignty of people and sovereignty of Parliament are upheld in our country".

The Prime Minister emphatically dismissed the allegation of some members of the Sangsad that the Armed Forces were indulging in politics. He declared "They were not involved in any kind of politics and they are playing their patriotic role".

Paying tributes to the Armed Forces Shah Azizur Rahman said that they had earned the admiration of the people for their allegiance to our Constitution during the most turbulent time of the country.

He stated that the entire Armed Forces could not be blamed for the act of a handful of miscreants who had killed our President Ziaur Rahman. He appealed to all not to make any comment that amounted to aspersion on the whole Armed Forces and could create despondency in the minds of our people. The way our Armed Forces had expressed their allegiance to democracy Constitution and to the constitutional Government would be written in letters of gold in our history. He once again clarified that our armed forces were never involved in political affairs and "they are not doing them now."

The Leader of the House dismissed as sheer untrue the allegation that two Cabinet Ministers had recently been relieved of their duties at the behest of the Cantonment. There was no iota truth in it he said adding such rumour was being circulated by some quarters to create confusion.

Quoting constitution he told the Sangsad that the Ministers held office at the pleasure of the President alone.

Referring to the criticism of some members against the Acting President for his visit to Cantonment Shah Azizur Rahman noted that the Acting President had to visit Headquarters of Army Navy and Air Forces as a routine work to perform his function as the Supreme Commander of the Defence Forces. Such allegation was motivated to confuse the people he added.

The Leader of the House refuted the charge of Prof. Muzaffar Ahmed (NAP-Muzaffar) that sovereignty lies with the armed forces in Bangladesh. He declared that "sovereignty lies with the people and the Jatiya Sangsad which was the custodian of the people's sovereignty exercises the absolute power on behalf of the people".

Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan Leader of the Opposition said that people never sought any dictation from the army but would always hail such role as had been played by the Armed Forces during the national crisis following the killing of President Ziaur Rahman.

The people unitedly demonstrated their pledge to continue to uphold democracy when the Armed Forces lent their support which drew admiration of the people for them. The Opposition Leader said adding that they should stay in their own area and field.

The Armed Forces must not be utilised by anyone as "power base" he warned.

The necessary allocation for the Armed Forces will have to be provided with the hope that they would play their due role from their own locus standi Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan further told the Sangsad.

The Opposition Leader referred to Article 61 of the Constitution and said that with the changed circumstances laws regulating the Armed Forces should also be changed.

In this connection he mentioned how Bangobandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had started building up the country from the ravages of a war when he even went for raising and building up the country's Armed Forces. But conspirators within the country with

the help of the imperialists finally succeeded in killing Bangobandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who had resisted the cliques and conspiracies of the imperialists.

The situation was then driven by enemies of the country to a pass through machinations following the scourge of flood and its resultant aftermath refusal by America to supply food with the intention to prove to the world that Sheikh Mujib's Government was not capable of running the country Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan recalled. Besides Mr. Khan recalled the country faced inimical posture adopted by China which did not support our freedom struggle and the natural calamities. The Bangobandhu was killed and no trial could be held he regretted saying such thing must be opposed.

Mr Khan thanked the Armed Forces for its role in upholding the supremacy of democratic rule during the recent crisis.

CSO: 4220/7233

PAPER GIVES DETAILS ON ILLEGAL SOVIET SHIPMENT

Airport Incident Described

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 22 Jun 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] The Soviet Embassy which imported sophisticated electronics equipment on Tuesday last under the label of construction materials was not given clearance to take them out of the airport till Sunday night.

The Embassy earlier tried to remove them from the airport without valid clearance and in the process assaulted security personnel of the airport.

When contacted Foreign Secretary Mr Humayun Rashid Chowdhury said that he was awaiting a report of the incident which he expected today (Monday). Official reaction would be given then, he said.

Asked if the Soviet Embassy imported these materials with the clearance of the Government Mr Chowdhury mentioned the Geneva Convention. Under the Geneva Convention any foreign embassy is under obligation to submit a list of things they propose to import for getting clearance. Normally embassy imports are not customs-checked if there is prior clearance by the Foreign Ministry.

But the Foreign Ministry can order customs check if it considers that imports contained contraband items. In this particular case the Soviet Embassy did not submit nor inform the Foreign Ministry about the import of these materials. Therefore, the question of Foreign Ministry's clearance did not arise.

Foreign Secretary Mr Chowdhury said "I have every intention to enforce the Geneva Convention as we are a sovereign and independent country."

According to airport sources, a special Aeroflot cargo flight brought in hundred forty crates of cargo on Tuesday night. On Saturday Soviet Embassy officials with their own trucks and pick-ups entered the airport forcibly brushing aside security guards at the gate. Then they tried to load the trucks and pick-ups. When airport employees asked them to produce documents they failed.

Meanwhile, other employees of the airport arrived and asked the Soviet embassy officials to produce the clearance by Foreign Minister before they could remove the crates.

Later, they were asked to get these crates which were supposedly carrying building materials checked by the airport customs. At the checking Soviet diplomats and Foreign Ministry representatives were present.

It is learnt that when a crate was opened it was found to contain sophisticated communication equipment. A National Security Intelligence official tried to take photographs of these items which is normal for keeping record. At this a Soviet diplomat reportedly punched upon him and snatched the camera and banged it on the floor. The NSI official also got hurt, it is learnt.

According to reports, the communication equipment include highly sophisticated frequency analyser which can be used to listen to any wireless communication around the region. Besides, there are signal generators, transmitters and other equipment weighing ten tonnes.

Party Leaders React

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 22 Jun 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] Political parties on Sunday condemned the activities of the Soviet Embassy officials in Dacca and expressed concern over the import of "prohibited goods" such as highly-sensitive electronics equipment used for espionage" by them.

They demanded expulsion of Soviet Embassy personnel who were engaged in espionage. While condemning the assault on security officials on duty at Dacca International Airport, Kurmitola, the political leaders expressed concern that such activities could not but be a part of a deep-laid conspiracy.

Ganotantrik Party

The Central Committee of the Ganotantrik Party which was in session since Saturday was of the opinion that these items were imported for exchange of secret information affecting the security of Bangladesh and said that such activity by the embassy of an expansionist power at the present situation was unholy and significant."

The Central Committee of the Party said that import of such wireless equipment under the guise of construction materials was a misuse of diplomatic privileges and demanded appropriate action against such activity.

Samyabadi Dal

Messrs Mohammad Toaha, Chairman and Prof Yusuf Ali, General Secretary of Bangladesher Samyabadi Dal in a joint statement to the Press urged the Government to publish a white paper as to when the Soviet plane landed at Kurmitola Airport without prior permission and what "secret arms" were brought in by it.

They also urged the nine crore people of the country to resist any conspiracy of "social imperialists."

They alleged that the Government had failed to tackle the incident. They said that the conspiracy at the airport and the attack on security officials by the

embassy employees amounted to open threat to the independence and sovereignty of Bangladesh.

UPP

Kazi Zafar Ahmed, Chairman and Mr. Mostafa Jamal Haider, General Secretary of United Peoples Party in a similar joint statement to the Press demanded immediate publication of a white paper on the "dubious activities by the Soviet Embassy in Bangladesh."

They said that the Embassy which imported wireless items in the name of importing construction materials by taking advantage of diplomatic privileges even employed physical force to get those items transferred from the airport by receiving the airport security staff.

They said that these activity leave enough reasons to doubt that social imperialists were engaged in a "deep-laid all-out conspiracy."

The UPP leaders said that such doubt had been deepened because of threat of "Afghan style revolution in Bangladesh" and the recent activities of the "identified lackeys of Indo-Soviet axis" said a Press release.

Jamaat-e-Islami

Mr Abbas Ali Khan Acting Amir, Jamaat-e-Islami in a similar statement said that the import of prohibited items by the Soviet Embassy by passing diplomatic norms was dubious and conspiratorial to the independence and sovereignty of Bangladesh.

He said that the entrance to the prohibited zone of the airport without permission, attempt at loading imported goods on trucks without necessary Customs clearance and the attack on security officials and then breaking hi. camera by the embassy employees were dubious, mysterious and audacious.

While protesting against such activity on the part of the embassy; he urged the Government to lodge strong protest against this and to stop such antidiplomatic, dubious and conspiratorial activity. He said that the people of Bangladesh were determined to resist any conspiracy by imperialist and expansionist forces, said a Press release.

Mr Garib Newaz Chairman Bangladesh People League (Newaz) expressed his deep concern over the import of prohibited items by the Soviet Embassy and said this amounted to threat on the independence and sovereignty of Bangladesh.

He demanded expulsion of the Soviet diplomats in Dacca saying that it could not be beyond doubt whether the embassy did not import such prohibited items in the past and that the continuance of the status quo might further endanger national security.

IDL

Moulana Abdus Sobhan Secretary General Islamic Democratic League in a similar statement to the Press condemned the import of prohibited items and urged the

Government to take appropriate action against such "serious espionage under the cover of diplomatic activities."

He said that detection of the import of "sensitive equipment" in the name of bringing construction materials was a cause of concern and highlighted fact that such "espionage equipment were imported by the embassy in the past."

Moulana Sobhan said that a large numbers of diplomats and cars of the Soviet Embassy in Bangladesh and the establishment of a large consulate at Chittagong by it was a proof of a network of espionage. He urged the Government to expel diplomats engaged in espionage and called upon the people to organise resistance against such activities.

Tanzim-ul Ulema

In a similar statement the Members of the Central Convening Committee of Tanzim-ul-Ulema Bangladesh condemned the activity of the Soviet embassy in Dacca and urged the government to take appropriate steps against such activities.

More Reaction Reported

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 23 Jun 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] Different political and students organisations on Monday condemned the illegal import of specialised electronic equipment by the Soviet Embassy in Dacca in the name of building materials and behaviour of some of the Embassy officials defying the diplomatic norms at Dacca International Airport on Saturday.

Mr. Atiqul Islam General Secretary of Jubo Muslim League and Mr. Mamunur Rashid Convener of Dacca City Jubo Muslim League in a statement on Monday condemned the illegal import of high powered electronic equipment by the Soviet Embassy in Dacca. They said that the attempt of some Soviet Embassy officials to get those equipment released forcibly was equally unfortunate and devoid of normal diplomatic behaviour.

The National Awami Party (Bhashani) condemning the illegal import of electronic equipment in the name of building materials demanded of the government to keep watch on the activities of the Soviet Embassy officials in the interest of the nation.

Mr. Matiur Rahman and Principal Sirajul Huq President and General Secretary respectively of the Progressive Democratic Force demanded of the Government to investigate into the activities of the Soviet Embassy in Dacca and publish a White Paper in this regard. They also condemned the illegal import of electronic equipment in the name of building materials by the Embassy.

Other organisations which expressed their concern over the airport incident were Bangladesh Jubo Muslim League Farakka O Simanta Hamla Protirodh Committee Jamiat e Ulama e Islam Bangladesh Mr. Shamsul Huda Chairman Gono Muslim League Mr. Shafiqur Rahman (IDL) Major (Retd.) Afsaruddin President NDP, Dr. K. N. Islam Convener Jatiya Sevak Dal Mr. Abdul Khaleque Joint Convener NAP (Bashani) Advocate Golam Mohiuddin Convener Jatiya Dal (Mohiuddin) Sarafat Hossain Chairman Rep Republican Party Syed Sirajul Huda President Jatiya Dal (Huda) and Hazrat Ali Sikdar of Jatiya Sevak Dal. These organisations also demanded closure of Soviet Consulate in Chittagong.

NURUL ISLAM LEAVES CABINET POST, JOINS BNP

Islam, Hossain Relieved

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 21 Jun 81 p 1

[Text] Major General (Retd) Nurul Islam and Lt. Col (Retd) Akbar Hossain have been relieved of their duties as Ministers with immediate effect, an official announcement said, reports BSS.

The announcement made on Saturday night from Bangabhaban said: "The Acting President Justice Abdus Sattar has been pleased to relieve Major General (Retd) Nurul Islam and Lt. Col. (Retd) Akbar Hossain of their duties as Ministers with immediate effect".

Islam Joins BNP

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 21 Jun 81 p 1

[Text] Major General (Retd) Nurul Islam, Minister for Agriculture and Forest on Saturday formally joined the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) reports BSS.

Disclosing this the Joint Secretary General of the BNP, Mr. Ferdous Ahmed Quoreshi said that General Islam had formally signed the membership form on Saturday morning.

Later in a statement, General Islam said "I have thought myself as an integral part of the BNP right from its inception and even before its inception. At the request of the respected Secretary General, Dr. Badruddoza Chowdhury, Joint Secretary General Messrs Ferdous Ahmed Quoreshi and Julmat Ali Khan, and other well wishers in the party and in the front organisations, I have formally signed the membership form today. In fact, I have only formalised my emotional attachment with the party its philosophy and its late great leader Ziaur Rahman.

The late President was the source of inspiration behind all my activities for the last five and a half years and today his memory is my basic strength and most significant inspiration."

CSO: 4220/7218

BANGLADESH

NURUL ISLAM CONGRATULATES SATTAR ON NOMINATION

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 26 Jun 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] Major General (Retd.) Nurul Islam congratulated Acting President Mr. Justice Abdus Sattar for being nominated by Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) as Presidential candidate. He pledged all his support in the victory of Justice Sattar in the next election. He also admired the Acting President Mr. Justice Sattar for tackling the crisis successfully after the death of President Zia.

Following is the full text of the statement issued by Major General (Retd) Nurul Islam.

"I congratulate the Acting President Mr. Justice Abdus Sattar for being nominated by Bangladesh Nationalist Party as a candidate for the next Presidential election. As a member of the Party, I sincerely pray to the Almighty God for his good health and victory in the elections. It is indeed creditable that in spite of being ill at the time of the tragic death of our late President Acting President Abdus Sattar has steered the country admirably towards a constitutional transition. The Acting President during the last five years in his capacities as Special Assistant and Vice-President has provided invaluable support to all the political and economic programmes of our beloved late President.

"I would like to express my deep personal gratitude to him for all the support cooperation and affection that I enjoyed from him in the last five years and a half during my association with the Government in different capacities. I pledge all my support to his victory to the ensuing election. In the interest of democracy and in the interest of a continued economic development programme, which is so vital to our people majority of whom are still living below the subsistence level we should all pray for his victory and work wholeheartedly towards that goal".

CSO: 4220/7228

SATTAR MESSAGE TO U.N. ON AFRICAN SOLIDARITY REPORTED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 21 Jun 81 p 1

[Text] Bangladesh has reaffirmed once again its "total and unflinching support" to the just struggle of the people of Southern Africa for the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination and apartheid, reports ENA.

The Bangladesh stand was reiterated in a message sent by Acting President Abdus Sattar to a meeting in New York held recently in observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the people of South Africa.

The message which was available here today was read out at the meeting by the Bangladesh Permanent Representative at the UN.

It said "we salute the countless victims of apartheid who have to suffer daily humiliation and indignation under the repressive laws of the racist regime".

"Year after year the special committee against apartheid had catalogued the extent and escalation of the policy of discrimination based on apartheid and racial discrimination. The policy of apartheid has meant denial of representation to the overwhelming majority of the people which has perpetuated economic discrimination on an unprecedented scale and dispossession and forcible transfer of millions of Africans under restrictive laws curtailing their elementary freedom in their own country.

Thousands of Africans have been tortured or murdered. Intimidation and harassment has been sanctioned by law. The humanitarian and the political dimension of apartheid needs no elaboration. It has rightly been termed by international community as a crime against humanity.

The message said the people of Africa have secured remarkable achievements in their struggle against colonial domination and racism. The final elimination of the last vestige of colonialism racism and apartheid in the Southern Africa is inevitable it added.

Our support to the legitimate rights and aspirations of the struggling people of South Africa is total and unequivocal. We believe that the universal commitment of the international community as demonstrated by the international conference on sanctions against South Africa will provide a fresh impetus to the continued struggle of the people of South Africa for the final elimination of all forms of colonial and racist oppression in Southern Africa" the message said.

CSO: 4220/7218

ZIA'S WIDOW DENIES MEETING WITH BEGUM MANZOOR

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 21 Jun 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] Begum Khaleda Zia on Saturday described as "fabricated and motivated" the report published in the weekly ITTEHAD that she had "secretly met with Begum Manzoor and none of them believed that Manzoor had killed Zia" reports BSS.

The widow of the late President in a statement said at a time when the whole nation was passing through a critical juncture following the tragic assassination of her husband publication of such baseless and confusing story is not only against honest journalism but also a sign of mad taste.

Begum Zia said: "The rumour-based report connecting my name which was published in the June 19 issue of the weekly ITTEHAD has come to my notice. It said I had a secret meeting with Begum Manzoor and neither Begum Zia nor Begum Manzoor believes that Manzoor had killed Zia". The report in ITTEHAD further mentioned that "they met on Friday in a house in the Cantonment".

Although this imaginary story was described as rumours yet attempt is being made to pass it as a true story.

"When the whole nation is standing at a critical juncture following the tragic assassination of my husband and when I and my two minor sons are in deep grief publication of such baseless and confusing report is not only against the policy of honest journalism but also a sign of bad taste.

I want to make it clear for the information of the people of the country that the report published in the ITTEHAD is totally fabricated and motivated and I have no language to condemn it.

I do not know what action Government will take against such misleading propaganda I also do not want to make a comment in this regard. However I believe that Government will take appropriate steps to check a repetition of such things.

In this connection I appeal to all the newspapers as well as the people of the country to refrain from involving my name with such imaginary stories in the greater interest of the nation.

AMENDMENT TO ENABLE SATTAR ELECTION RECOMMENDED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 1 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] The BNP Parliamentary Party unanimously recommended introduction and consideration of the Constitution 6th Amendment during the current session of the Jatiya Sangsad at its meeting held on Tuesday morning with the Leader of the House and Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman in the chair.

The proposed Amendment to the Constitution will be to remove anomaly for the eligibility of the Acting President to seek the presidential election the Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman told BSS.

The proposed Constitution Amendment Bill is likely to be introduced in the House today (Wednesday).

At the end of two-hour-long meeting the Prime Minister said the Parliamentary Party which constituted a committee to suggest "any further Amendment" to the Constitution also set up another committee to prepare a draft of the privileges of the members and enactment of a law for establishment of the District Development Boards.

Headed by the Leader of the House Shah Azizur Rahman the BNP Parliamentary Committee formed to suggest amendments to the Constitution comprises among others Dr A. Q. M. Badruddoza Chowdhury Secretary-General of BNP and Deputy Leader of the House two Deputy Prime Ministers Mr Jamaluddin Ahmed and Mr S. A. Bari A.T. Civil Aviation Minister Mr Obaidur Rahman Mr Moudud Ahmed the Railway Minister Mr Abdul Alim Begum Taslima Abed Mr Anisul Islam Mahmud and Mr Nur Mohammad.

The BNP Parliamentary Committee to prepare the draft of the privileges of members will be headed by Mr Justice T. H. Khan as Convener.

CSO: 4220/7241

BANGLADESH

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON 1981 CENSUS RELEASED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 28 Jun 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] The total population of Bangladesh now stands at 8 crore 99 lakh and 40 thousand, according to the preliminary report on the Population Census of Bangladesh, 1981, formally released at a Press conference in Dacca on Saturday.

Planning Minister Dr. Fasihuddin Mahtab addressed the Press conference held at the state guest house 'Meghna'.

Dr. Fasihuddin Mahtab pointed out that on the basis of the preliminary count, the total population of Bangladesh comes to 87,052,024 with 44,849,973 males and 42,202,051 females. He said that since under-count of population was common in all national censuses, a post enumeration check (PEC) was undertaken which indicated that there had been a national under count of 3.3 per cent. After adjusting the estimated undercount, the population of Bangladesh was shown at 89,940,000.

Dr. Mahtab told the news conference that about 206,000 enumerators and 46,000 enumerator's supervisors (including a 5 per cent reserve in both categories) were engaged during the enumeration conducted on March 6, 7 and 8, 1981. He said that the preliminary report of the census was formulated on the basis of manual tabulation.

The Planning Minister announced that the final report of the census would be published sometime in June, 1982--although efforts were underway to publish it earlier.

Sex Ratio

According to the preliminary report, the sex ratio (males against 100 females) is 106, the number of households is 15,135,000. The density of population per square mile, including river area has been shown at 1566 (excluding river area--1,675). Per capita availability of land is estimated at 0.38 acres.

The report shows that on the basis of adjusted population of 1961, 1974 and 1981 the computed growth rates were as follows: from 1961 to 1974 2.70 per cent, from 1974 to 1981 2.36 per cent and from 1961 to 1981 2.59 per cent.

Sample Survey

The Planning Minister told a questioner that a detailed sample survey would be conducted in November this year to gather data on housing, income, assets,

profession and cultural patterns in rural Bangladesh. The sample survey would form a part of the census and would cover about one per cent of the total households in the country.

Dr. Mahtab said that the sample survey would provide answers to 59 questions which are not covered by the census.

Cost of Census

He told another questioner that the total cost of the national population census would run into Tk. 15.7 crore, of which Tk. six crore would come from the UNFPA. The remaining portion would be funded by the government of Bangladesh.

The Planning Minister pointed out that urbanisation was a relatively new phenomena in Bangladesh--the rate of urbanisation being between 12 to 13 per cent. He said that in the neighbouring countries like India and Burma the rate of urbanisation was above 30 per cent.

Growth Centres

He disclosed that the government had taken up a scheme to build up 1200 growth centres in the country where attempts would be made to stimulate non-agricultural economic activities.

He added that these growth centres would be provided with basic infrastructural facilities like electricity and road communications with a view to setting off a multiplier effect. This, he went on, would take off the undesired pressure on the existing urban areas where all the non-agricultural economic activities are concentrated.

79 Municipality

The 1981 population census covered 79 municipality (poura shava) locations. The population of the Dacca Statistical Metropolitan Area (SMA) was shown to be 3,458,602 including 73,788 floating and transient persons (counted on March 5 night). The population of Chittagong SMA was found to be 1,388,475 including 24,883 floating and transient persons.

The population of Khulna SMA is 623,184 which includes a floating and transient population of 8,175. The Rajshahi SMA has a population of 171,600 including a floating and transient population of 2,117.

Sunderbans

For the first time, an attempt was made to enumerate the population in the Sunderbans during this year's census. The entire population of the Sunderbans area was divided into two groups viz floating persons who go there temporarily and the household persons who generally live inside the forest.

Total population recorded during the census night in the Sunderbans area is about 20,682 of which 17,853 belong to the floating group and 2,829 are household group. Almost all the floating people are male.

Population of Bangladesh By District, 1901 to 1981 (in 000)										
District	1901	1911	1921	1931	1941	1951	1961	1974	1981	
Chittagong	1383	1808	1611	1797	2153	2309	2983	4315	5476	
Chittagong H.T.	125	154	173	213	247	288	385	508	746	
Comilla	2139	2455	2696	3056	3850	3792	4389	5819	6880	
Dhaka	1143	1303	1473	1707	2217	2274	2383	3234	3813	
Sylhet	2031	2241	2298	2466	2832	3059	3490	4759	5650	
Dacca	2617	2929	3172	3449	4224	4073	5096	7612	10049	
Faridpur	1781	1968	2030	2163	2650	2710	3179	4060	4768	
Jamalpur	-	-	-	-	-	-	1449	2059	2445	
Hyemsingh	3922	4631	4842	5135	6030	4568	4083	5508	6543	
Tangail	-	-	-	-	-	1227	1487	2078	2444	
Bakerganj	2486	2613	2844	3194	3811	2636	3058	3928	4688	
Jessore	1647	1597	1590	1552	1695	1703	2190	3327	4016	
Khulna	1268	1380	1472	1629	1944	2076	2449	3557	4353	
Kustia	885	842	783	808	920	884	1166	1884	2273	
Patuakhali	-	-	-	-	-	1006	1194	1499	1840	
Bogra	884	1017	1083	1122	1260	1278	1574	2231	2778	
Onaipur	1126	1168	1220	1236	1336	1353	1710	2571	3198	
Patna	1418	1425	1385	1438	1696	1584	1959	2915	3412	
Rajshahi	1902	2000	2028	1993	2198	2205	2811	4088	5263	
Rangpur	2202	2434	2555	2846	2924	2916	3796	5447	6490	
TOTAL	28928	31555	33255	35602	41997	41932	50840	71479	87052	

Dahagram

The Planning Minister told a questioner that census would be undertaken in the Bangladeshi enclaves of Dahagram and Angorpota between July 6 and 13, as per an agreement with the Indian authorities.

65487 Villages

The preliminary report showed that there were 65487 villages--with 50 or more households--in the country (with an average population of 1276). There were also 20163 smaller settlements around the villages (whom the local people called villages) with less than 50 households each (and an average population 172 each). The report explained that according to the 1974 census "there were 68385 villages and subsequently some of the large villages were split into "Paras" or hamlets as new settlements came up".

The census report showed the number of police stations to be 469 (excluding five new ones created after the census) with an average population of 185000.

The number of unions (rural) was shown as 4365 with an average population of 17820.

Highest Population

BSS adds: The District of Dacca has the highest population of 1 crore 49 thousand according to the preliminary report of the census.

The report revealed that the population of Comilla district is 6880000 followed by Mymensingh 6543000 and Rangpur 6490000 Chittagong Hill Tracts with 746000 population is the smallest district.

The growth rate over 1974 in Chittagong Hill Tracts is the highest (46.85 per cent). This is mainly due to in migration from other districts. Dacca with 32.02 per cent and Chittagong with 26.91 per cent have the second and third largest growth mainly due to rapid urbanisation in and around the two metropolis where population increased very sharply according to the report.

Growth rates in Faridpur (17.44 per cent) Tangail (17.62 per cent) and Noakhali (17.90 per cent) are among the lowest growth rate areas of Bangladesh the report said.

CSO: 4220/7234

OPPOSITION LEADERS SPEAK IN HOUSE BUDGET DEBATE

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 20 Jun 81 pp 1, 12

[Excerpt] The general debate on national Budget for 1981-82 continued at the Jatiya Sangsad for the third consecutive day on Friday. The Opposition members participating in the discussion mostly concentrated on political issues and paid little attention to Budget.

Some Opposition members interrupted the proceedings a number of times and drew the attention of the Speaker to the announcement of presidential election date without what they called consulting the Opposition political parties. The Leader of the House Shah Azizur Rahman referred to his statement made at the Sangsad on Wednesday about the announcement of election date. He called upon the members to go through his statement.

It may be mentioned here that the Prime Minister and Leader of the House Shah Azizur Rahman made it clear on Wednesday's session of the Parliament that the fixation of a date for presidential election was not a national problem but the fulfilment of a constitutional obligation by the Government. He informed the House that leaders of each political party will be invited by the Acting President for discussion about the presidential election to be held on September 21.

Participating at the debate Professor Muzaffar Ahmed (NAP-M) viewed that the 84 per cent of the total population of Bangladesh who are below the poverty level are not interested in the form of government. Their main problem is poverty and they want a better life he added. Criticising the demand by certain quarters for a national government Professor Muzaffar Ahmed said that the national crisis was over and there was no need for a national government now. He said that many are interested in grabbing power. Professor Ahmed said that he was in favour of parliamentary form of government. Calling for forging greater national unity he said that the struggle over the issue of freedom fighters and non-freedom fighters should have ended by this time.

Turning to the social system he said that production was going on but there was no equitable distribution of wealth. Exploitation of the Third World nations by the imperialist countries was going on. And the Third World countries must continue the struggle against the imperialist powers he added. He opined that Islam in its true form can be established through socialism. Islam was a religion of peace he said.

On the new Budget Professor Ahmed said that it would protect the interest of the rich and not the interest of the peasants and workers who constitute 95 per cent of the population.

Professor Ahmed demanded the release of Mr. Mohammad Farhad General-Secretary of the Communist Party of Bangladesh.

Participating in the discussion Mr. Salauddin Yusuf (AL-H) said that the BNP has been formed by left over elements of other political parties. He however admitted that there were also some good and talented people in the BNP. Mr. Yusuf said that people have no confidence in BNP. He said that the BNP came to power because people had confidence in late President Ziaur Rahman and since he is dead the Parliament should be dissolved and fresh election be held.

Mr. Yusuf criticised the Government for its Foreign Policy. He felt that the Foreign Policy pursued by the Government was biased towards the United States.

Mr. Yusuf termed the new Budget as dependent on foreign aid through which exploitation aid could continue by the imperialist powers. The number of landless peasants was increasing day by day and the Government has failed to set up mills and factories he added. On the other hand he said that luxury and electronic goods have flooded the market.

CSO: 4220/7215

OPPOSITION LEADERS REACT TO ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 17 Jun 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] The Jatiya Janata Party chief General (Retd) M. A. G. Osmani in a statement on Tuesday night said "the Government should have consulted the opposition political parties before the announcement of the date for holding the presidential elections by Acting President Mr Justice Abdus Sattar reports ENA.

In his statement M. A. G. Osmani said this is in violation of what Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman committed in the Jatiya Sangsad that the opposition political parties will be consulted in matters of taking any decision.

He said the announcement of election date proves that the Government has no intention to seek cooperation from the opposition parties to overcoming the present crisis.

Democratic League President Khandkar Moshtaque Ahmed on Tuesday night said 'it was expected of the Acting President to discuss the leaders of political parties before announcement of date for presidential polls.

He was commenting on the announcement of the presidential polls. He said all political parties irrespective of differences of opinion had extended their cooperation in facing the national crisis on May 30.

Major (Retd) M. A. Jalil and Mr. A. S. M. Abdur Rab President and General Secretary respectively of Jatiya Samajtantric Dal on Tuesday said unilateral decision on the question of holding presidential elections by the Government is the reflection of 'obduracy' on the part of it.

In a joint statement to the Press on Tuesday night the JSD leaders said that they urged the Government to consult the opposition parties before taking any decision to hold presidential elections as it did not overcome national crisis following assassination of President Ziaur Rahman.

CSO: 4220/7213

PARLIAMENT DISCUSSES BORDER CLASHES, OTHER PROBLEMS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 20 Jun 81 p 1

[Text] Indian Border Security Forces (BSF) came into clash with Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) seven times along the border last year Home Minister A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman informed the Jatiyo Sangsad on Friday reports ENA.

Replying to a question from Treasury Bench member Jahangir Mohammad Adel the Home Minister said five persons were injured in these clashes. He however denied that the BSF and organised gangs of Indian citizens enter into Bangladesh territory and take away cows cattles buffalos and other things.

In reply to another question from Muslim League member Mohammad Almas Hossain Mustafizur Rahman said the authorities of Bangladesh and India held 22 meetings to establish law and order along the border from 1975 till May this year. He said these meetings succeeded in stopping exchanges of fire checking of smuggling illegal infiltration and forcible harvesting of paddy etc.

1729 Smugglers Held

Meanwhile BSS adds: Smugglers numbering 1,729 were arrested and smuggled goods worth Taka 2.85 crore were recovered by the Bangladesh rifles (BDR) in the border areas in the last five months (January to May) this year the Home Minister Mr Mustafizur Rahman told the Jatiyo Sangsad.

Replying to Md. Asaduzzaman (AL-H) the Home Minister informed the House that the smuggled goods recovered by the BDR included cattle head cloths yarn churi medicine sugar Bangladesh currency machinery parts spiles old clothes fish jute cassette recorder and powder milk. [As published]

CSO: 4220/7215

NEW LEADER'S FOREIGN POLICY CONSISTENT WITH ZIA

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 16 Jun 81 p 5

[Editorial]

[Text]

Soon after the Bangladeshis won the struggle for their independence they had announced their solidarity with the rest of the world, especially the oppressed and liberation-seeking peoples. Working on the plank of peace and fraternity this country gradually found acceptance by all. Those experiences had remained a beacon in guiding our foreign policy. More than that it lent a sincerity of purpose in our endeavours to seek peace in this strife-torn world.

Late President Ziaur Rahman, with his experiences gained in the War of Independence and later the insight earned into the sufferings of a poverty-stricken people, felt the needs of kindred masses all over the world in a way which it is not possible to understand by many. So he took the urgent messages of the Third World to the rest of the globe with undiminished fervour till the very last moment of his life. This championing of the cause of the under-developed earned respect and love for Bangladesh and its people in countries far and wide.

Under the guidance of President Zia Bangladesh went to the Security Council, the crucial meetings of the Non-Alignment Movement members, the Islamic Conference and the Commonwealth taking principled stand on issues, championing the cause of independence and sovereignty and canvassing for peace and cooperation. It would have been so much a matter of satisfaction had he been able to see the end of the Iraq-Iran war.

But even so, it is a fact that he and thus Bangladesh came to be trusted in the capitals of both the warring nations. May be the ground that he did with the other members of the OIC peace mission will soon produce beneficial results.

One dream of the late President was that Bangladesh come to be considered as a bridge between South Asia and South East Asia. A part of the strategy adopted by him was a relentless pursuit of friendship with our neighbours while retaining the basis of sovereign equality in such relationship. At his untiring and undaunted efforts the idea of regional cooperation in South Asia was beginning to take shape. Bilaterally, our cordial relationship stretches from western Africa to Japan, from West Europe to the Americas across the Atlantic.

We recall these facts today to emphasise that these fundamental characteristics of our international relations and foreign policy will continue to be nurtured as the Acting President Mr. Justice Sattar and Foreign Affairs Minister Professor, Shamsul Huq have assured.

CSO: 4220/7212

BANGLADESH

REPORT ON VISIT OF AUSTRALIAN SPECIAL EMISSARY

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 16 Jun 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] The special emissary of the Australian Prime Minister, Mr. Ian Macphee, called on the Acting President, Mr. Justice Abdus Satter, at Bangabhavan on Monday afternoon, reports BSS.

Mr. Macphee delivered to the Acting President a personal invitation from the Australian Prime Minister Mr. Malcolm Fraser to attend the Commonwealth summit meeting to be held in Melbourne towards the end of September this year.

During the meeting the special emissary reiterated Australia's continued cooperation with Bangladesh.

Earlier, Mr. Ian Macphee discussed the agenda of the forthcoming Commonwealth summit meeting with Foreign Minister Prof. Muhammad Shamsul Huq.

Mr. Macphee called on the Foreign Minister at his office.

The special emissary and the Foreign Minister exchanged views of contemporary economic issues of concern to the two Commonwealth Nations.

They noted with satisfaction the growing bilateral relations between Australia and Bangladesh. He assured the Foreign Minister of continuing cooperation of his country, to Bangladesh.

The special emissary said that the untimely death of President Ziaur Rahman was not only a loss for Bangladesh but also for the Commonwealth and the international community.

Mr. Macphee said that late President Ziaur Rahman was held in high esteem not only for the valuable leadership that he provided for economic development of Bangladesh and establishment of democratic institution in the country but also for his outstanding contributions in the cause of peace and progress of international community including the Commonwealth.

Mr. Macphee is in Dacca as special envoy of Prime Minister Mr. Malcolm Fraser carrying a personal invitation for Acting President Mr. Justice A. Sattar for the Commonwealth summit meeting to be held in Melbourne beginning September 30.

He also conveyed the condolence of the people and Government of Australia at the tragic assassination of President Ziaur Rahman.

The visiting Australian Minister had an hour long meeting with the Speaker, Mirza Ghulam Hafiz at the Sangsad Bhaban in the morning.

The Speaker informed the visiting dignitary the working of the Bangladesh Parliament multi-party representation in it and the system of elections. He stressed the need for development of closer relations among the people's and parliaments of the Commonwealth countries.

CSO: 4220/7210

MINISTER NOTES INDIAN'S ARREST, PASSPORT STATISTICS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 20 Jun 81 p 8

[Text] Home Minister Mr A. S. M. Mustafizur Rahman told the Jatiya Sangsad on Friday that a total of about 15.64 lakh passports were issued since the independence of the country till April 30 this year.

Replying to a written question by Mr S. A. Khaleq (BNP) the Home Minister said that so far 558 cases related to forging of passports were initiated. Of these 296 cases were proved he said.

Replying to a separate written question by Mr Ukil Shahdat Hossain (BNP) the Home Minister said that a total of 1.80 lakh passports were issued from July 1 1980 to April 30 1981. He said that Tk 4.25 crore was earned as fees by issuing these passports.

Replying to a separate written question by Sheikh Selim (AL-H) Mr Mustafizur Rahman said that a total of 9228 foreign nationals were at present living in Bangladesh. Of them 717 were working in the foreign diplomatic missions he said. These included 385 diplomatic and 332 non-diplomatic personnel.

Replying to a separate written question by Lt. Commander (Retd) Mahbubul Islam (BNP) the Home Minister said that it was true that one youngman was arrested on the night of May 7 last from a Indian vessel--M. V. Biswa Parimal--anchored at Chalna Port with a special type of wireless set. He said that the arrested person was Shahjahan Choudhury son of Abdul Barek Choudhury of Savar Dacca. He said that the name of the set was Tagblock (telecommunication apparatus). He said that the motive of the arrested person was not yet known.

CSO: 4220/7217

SHEIKH HASINA SHOWS NEWSMEN OVER MUJIB'S HOUSE

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 20 Jun 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] Mrs Sheikh Hasina Wazed, President of Bangladesh Awami League (Hasina) said on Friday that she had signed the government prepared inventory without physical verification when the house of her father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was formally handed over to her on June 12.

She told newsmen that it appeared that many articles had been missing including gold ornaments, other valuables and books. She did not elaborate on the missing list.

Newsmen were invited on Friday to see the condition of the house particularly the first and second floor of the three-storied building. The doors of the rooms in the first and second floor were "formally opened" in front of the newsmen at 11-30 a.m. on Friday. Sheikh Hasina claimed that these rooms were not opened by them since the house was under government custody.

A large number of Awami League leaders were present when the newsmen were shown the rooms. They included Messrs Abdul Malek Ukil, Abdur Razzak, Abdul Manan, Abdul Momen Talukder, Abdus Samad Azad, Tofael Ahmed, Amir Hossain Amu, Syed Ahmed and Mrs. Ivy Rahman. Mr. Syed Hossain an uncle of Sheikh Hasina was also present.

When the rooms were being opened one after another, Mrs. Hasina was visibly moved and wept profusely.

The living rooms of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Mrs. Hasina Wazed, Sheikh Rehana and Sheikh Jamal were on the first floor while the rooms of Sheikh Kamal and sitting rooms of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman were located on the second floor. The sitting rooms could not be opened owing to problem in the lock.

Mr. Abdur Razzaque showed the newsmen marks of bullet shots and stains of blood in some rooms and the bathroom of Sheikh Jamal. A portion of the staircase was found covered by a national flag. The Awami League leaders said that the body of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman lay there after he was shot dead on August 15, 1975.

Later talking to the newsmen Sheikh Hasina Wazed said that she was mentally disturbed when the house was handed over to her on June 12. As such she said, she did not have the chance to see ornaments and other valuables by opening all the boxes.

According to the inventory, there were 503 tolas of gold diamond and platinum ornaments and 4,054 tolas of silver in the house. Sheikh Hasina received these ornaments by signing the inventory in presence of her relations and party leaders.

Mrs. Hasina said that only one box of jewellery was opened in her presence. She said that these ornaments were weighed by a goldsmith engaged by the government.

Justifying the presence of huge gold and other ornaments in the house, Sheikh Hasina said that all these things belonged to the families of her father her two brothers, her sister and also to herself. She said that even some of their relations had kept their ornaments in that house for safe custody.

She said that the family had received large presentations on various occasions. "Even Shah Azizur Rahman presented one gold guinea either to me or to Russel on a birth day function", she said.

She said that she was not at all prepared to receive the articles in her father's house. She said that she thought that the entire house had been looted and robbed. "However", she said; "we have not received whatever we were supposed to receive".

Sheikh Hasina said that she was never interested in goods. "I only wanted the house back. I signed the inventory list when I was told that without signing the list I shall not get the house", she said.

In reply to a question, Sheikh Hasina Wazed said that some of her relations were present when the house was handed over to her. She said that she was mentally very disturbed and did not notice as to who among the Awami Leaders were present on the occasion.

Mrs. Sheikh Hasina Wazed repeated that she did not want the list of goods but the list of those killed on August 15. "I have not been furnished with that list despite reminders", she said.

When the Awami League President was reminded that it was the Awami League that had formed the government after the killing of her father and she could obtain the list from the Awami League leaders she said, "I want the list from them. I want the list from you. I want the list from the people of the country".

Sheikh Hasina said that she was yet to decide about the future of the house and the property.

Asked whether she had any plan to convert the house into a museum in memory of her father, Sheikh Hasina said that she had not thought over the matter as yet. "Rehana is there. I shall discuss with her about the house and the goods received and take a decision subsequently", she said.

The newsmen were interrupted on several occasions by some Awami League leaders present on the plea that Sheikh Hasina was not holding any Press conference.

In all the rooms, the fixtures and furniture were not in order dirt, accumulated in years was found on the floors and soots in the ceilings.

HEAD OF NAVY MAKES SPEECH IN CHITTAGONG

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 16 Jun 81 p 1

[Text] Chittagong, June 15:--Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral M. A. Khan visits the BNS Issa Khan here today reports BSS.

Addressing the officers and sailors, Admiral Khan said that the naval personnel would continue to remain united and discipline to perform their duties with more vigour and enthusiasm. Continued training and exercise will help raise their efficiency he added.

He congratulated the Naval personnel at Chittagong who maintained the Chittagong port coast line and the outer anchorage free from intrusion of the miscreants during the crisis which the nation had overcome.

The Naval Chief paid rich tributes to the late President Ziaur Rahman and others who died with him and expressed his profound sympathy for the members of the bereaved families.

The Chief of Naval Staff was received and seen off at the Chittagong Airport by Commodore Commanding Chittagong, Commodore K. M. J. Akbar and other senior officers of the Naval area.

CSO: 4220/7210

PAPER PUBLISHES GOVERNMENT PROMOTION LIST

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 3 Jul 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] According to the notification of the Establishment Division 114 officers have been promoted as Additional Secretary Joint Secretary and Deputy Secretary. Of them 12 are Additional Secretaries, 24 Joint Secretaries and 78 Deputy Secretaries say a PID handout in Dacca on Thursday.

Besides another two officers working abroad have been promoted to the NNS of Tk 2375 2750 and their names enlisted with the Joint Secretaries in the list of officers in the Senior Services Pool. Six retired personnel of the Armed Forces have been appointed Senior Scale Section Officers Section Officer.

Present posting of the officers are as follows:--

Additional Secretary

Mr A K Md Hedayetul Huq, to continue in the same post in the Prime Minister Secretariat; Khandaker Mahbub-e-Rabbani, Foreign Trade Division, Ministry of Commerce; Mr Abdus Salam, Establishment Division; Mr Muhammad Abul Fazal Choudhury; Ministry of Religious Affairs; Mr Md Khaney Alam Khan; Cabinet Division Mr A H Nurul Islam; Establishment Division Mr Sadat Hossain Establishment Division; Mr Qamrul Huda; Inspection Division Mr A. N. M. Eusuf, Establishment Division; Syed Hasan Ahmed, Establishment; Mr Md Abu Syed, Inspection Division and Mr Manzurul Karim, Ministry of Education.

Joint Secretary

Mr M. A. Shafiqur Rahman Inspection Division Ministry of Finance; Mr Shahabuddin Mahtab Financial Adviser Finance Division; Mr. Ataur Rahman Chowdhury, Establishment Division; Mr Afzalur Rahman, Ministry of Relief & Rehabilitation; Mr Nur Mohammad Akand, Ministry of Fisheries & Livestock; Mr Nur Mohammad, Ministry of Railway; Roads; Highways and Road Transport Mr Ali Reza, Financial Adviser Finance Division; Mr Sultanuddin Bhuiya, Parliament Secretariat Mr Jalaluddin Ahmed Establishment Division; Mr A. B. M. Siddique Ministry of Food; Mr Lutful Matin Ministry of Finance; Mr Md Akbar Hossain, Land Reform Commissioner Ministry of Land Administration & Land Reform Mr A B Chowdhury Implementation Division Ministry of Finance; Air Commodore Moinul Islam Establishment Division; Major (Retd) Ali Ahmed Khan; Establishment Division; Mr Malik Siddiqullah Foreign Trade Division Ministry of Commerce; Mr A. H. M. Abdul Hye Cabinet Division; Dr A K M

Mashhur Rahman Ministry of Public Works & Urban Development; Dr Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir External Resources Division; Dr Syed Abdus Samad Establishment Division Mr Md Abdul Hakim Establishment Division; Mr Md Akhtar Ali Ministry of Water & Power; Mr Nazrul Islam; Ministry of Finance; Mrs Nazma Ahmed Ministry of Women's Affairs; Mr Waliur Rahman Counsellor New York and Brig A N M Nuruzzaman B U (Released) Consul-General; Consulate General of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in Sydney Australia.

Deputy Secretary

Mr A F M Waliur Rahman Khondker, Establishment Division; Mr Muhammad Ansar Ali Siddique Establishment Division Mr Md Abdus Shahid Choudhury Establishment Division Mr Maizuddin Ahmed; Establishment Division; Mr Abul Khair Mohammad Abdus Salam; Establishment Division; Mr Farruk Ahmed, Establishment Division; Mr Mozammel Hossain Md Siddique, Establishment Division; Mr Sadiduddin Ahmed Salik Establishment Division Mr Mohammad Abdul Ali No 11, Establishment Division; Mr A H M Nurul Huda Chowdhury, Establishment Division; Mr A S M Nasiruddin Ministry of Public Works and Urban Development; Mr Abdul Hai Sarkrer Establishment Division; Shyam Sunder Nath, Ministry of Women's Affairs; Mr. Abdul Maleq Establishment Division; Mr Akramul Islam Establishment Division; Mr Bibekananda Majumder, Ministry of Food; Khandaker Abul Hussain, Establishment Division; Mr Shahryar Zeyaur Rahman Iqbal Establishment Division; Molla Mohammad Abdul Matin Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock; Mr Mohammad Abdur Rashid, Establishment Division; Mr Mohammad Maqbul Husain, Establishment Division; Mr Azizur Rahman No III, Establishment Division; Mr Waliullah Siddiqui Ministry of Agriculture and Forest; Mr Tofail Ahmed Choudhury; Establishment Division; Mr Shamsuddin Ahmed No VI Establishment Division Mr Aziz Ahmed Establishment Division; Mr Abu Nasar Md Hafizul Islam Establishment Division; Mr Mofizuddin Sikder, Establishment Division; Mr Muhammad Anwarul Hoque, Establishment Division; Mr Muhammad Serajul Haq Ministry of Land Administration and Land Reforms; Mr Md Abdur Rouf, Ministry of Home Affairs; Mr Md Kobad Hossain, Establishment Division; Mr Md Sultan Molla, Science & Technology Division; Mr S A Y M Ziauddin Cabinet Division; Mr A F M Ziauddin Ahmed, Finance Division, Ministry of Finance; Mr Mohammad Mozharul Islam, Cabinet Division; Mr Md Abul Kalam Azad, Establishment Division; Mr Md Aminul Islam, Establishment Division; Mr Abdul Mannan Howlader, Establishment Division; Mr Md Giash Uddin Pathan, Cabinet Division; Mr Md Abdul Halim; No II, Ministry of Land Administration & Land Reforms; Mr Md Alaur Rahman Choudhury, Establishment Division; Quazi Abdul Bayes, Ministry of Fisheries & Livestock; Mr Gopi Mohan Mandal, Establishment Division Mr Abul Hasnat Muhammad Fazlul Haque, Cabinet Division; Mr Muhammad Sakawat Hossain Ministry of Education Mr Abdul Muktadir Choudhury Cabinet Division; Mr Mahibul Islam Chowdhury, Establishment Division; Syed Nurul Islam Banking & Investment Division, Ministry of Finance, Mr Bazlur Rahman Siqder, Finance Division, Ministry of Finance, Mr Md Akhtar Hussain Khan, Establishment Division; Syed Abdur Rob, External Resources Division, Ministry of Finance; Mr Md Matiur Rahman Shah, Ministry of Land Administration and Land Reforms; Mr Md Mahfuzur Sobhan, Ministry of Local Govt, Rural Development and Cooperatives; Mr Md Helal Uddin Khan, Establishment Division; Mr Manik Lal Somaddar, Finance Division, Ministry of Finance; Mr Md Matiur Rahman; Establishment Division Mr Abul Quasem Md Quamrul Huda Implementation Division Ministry of Finance; Mr Dhiraj Kumar Nath Population Control and Family Planning Division, Mr Ziaul Islam Chowdhury, Commerce Division; Ministry of Commerce; Mr Badiuzzaman Khan Ministry of Education; Mr Mofazzal Hossain, Ministry of Water

Resources and Flood Control; Mr Abdul Latif Mondal, Establishment Division; Mr Md Shamsul Islam; Finance Division Ministry of Finance; Mr Khairuzzaman Chowdhury; Ministry of Education; Mr Ashraf Hasan; Finance Division; Ministry of Finance, Syed Tanveer Hossain, Establishment Division; Mr Md Nurul Huda, Ministry of Youth Development; Mr B R Zulqarnine, Finance Division; Ministry of Finance; Mr Atahar Islam Khan Commercial Secretary Dakar; Mr Khorshed Alam; Establishment Division; Mr Fazlul Kabir, Ministry of Finance (Finance Division); Mr A F M Abdur Rashid Mian, Ministry of Finance (Inspection Division); Syed Mosarraf Hossain, Ministry of Finance (Finance Division); Mr Md Nazimuddin Establishment Division Major Altafur Rahman; retired; Inspection Division, Ministry of Finance; Major Abdus Sattar, Retired, Ministry of Food and Col. Syed Shahabuddin, Retired; Health Division; Ministry of Health; Population Control and Family Planning.

Senior Scale Section Officer/Section Officer

Major (Rtd) Mohd Masud, Ministry of Relief & Rehabilitation; Major (Rtd) Syed Ahmed; Ministry of Sports & Cultural Affairs; Capt (Rtd) Syed Sajauddin Ahmed, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting; Capt (Rtd) Jamilur Rahman, Ministry of Ports; Shipping & IWT Capt (Rtd) Mazharul Karim Ministry of Finance (Finance Divn) and Ft Lt Quader, Ministry of Education.

CSO: 4220/7245

JOURNALIST UNION LEADERS PROTEST CENSORSHIP

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 3 Jul 81 p 8

[Text] The following statement issued by Mr. Ahmed Humayun and Mr Reazuddin Ahmed President and Secretary General of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Mr Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury and Mr Amanullah Kabir President and General Secretary of Dacca Union of Journalists (DUJ) on Thursday reports BSS.

"We are constrained to note that the Government has imposed pre-censorship upon some weeklies under the provisions of the infamous Special Powers Act. We note with regret that this step has been taken at a time when the Parliament is in session, the Press Council is in operation and the whole nation is committed to uphold the democratic process in the country.

The government measure militates against the fundamental principles of democracy, Press freedom and the people's right to know. We resolutely demand that the pre-censorship order of the Government should be withdrawn immediately in the greater interest of the nation at this critical juncture.

We also like to reiterate the demand of the journalists community for repeal of all black laws including the infamous Special Powers Act for ensuring freedom of Press and restoring fundamental rights of the people.

CSO: 4220/7245

'OUT OF ORDER' CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTION ANSWERED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 23 Jun 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] Speaker Mirza Galom Hafiz on Monday ruled a constitutional question raised by Moulana M A Rahim of Islamic Democratic League out of order as the chair was not competent to give explanation on it.

Moulana M A Rahim demanded the explanation of the chair as to what would be the fate of the Parliament if a man belonging to a party which was in minority in the Parliament was elected the President of Bangladesh in the next election.

He said that it was also to be clear what would be the position of the existing Parliament if an independent candidate was elected to the presidency.

After the question was ruled out, Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman, upon permission from the chair said that Moulana M A Rahim had raised a hypothetical question.

The Prime Minister, however said that the Parliament would continue to function if it was not dissolved. He said that the next elected President would do whatever was necessary in keeping with the powers vested in him by the Constitution. But it was not necessary that the Parliament would have to be dissolved after election of a new President.

CSO: 4220/7224

PAKISTAN PRESIDENT SENDS MESSAGE ON ZIA DEATH

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 3 Jul 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] Mr Mahmood A Haroon Interior Minister of Pakistan who arrived in Dacca on Tuesday night leading a five member delegation of his country to pay homage to Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman on Wednesday handed over a message from President Ziaul Huq to Acting President Mr Justice Abdus Sattar, reports BSS.

The message was handed over to the Acting President when the delegation members called on him to express condolences on behalf of the Government and People of Pakistan at the martyrdom of President Ziaur Rahman.

The goodwill delegation included Pakistan's Information and Broadcasting Minister Raja Zafarul Huq Local Bodies and Rural Development Minister Mr Fakhre Imam Minister for Culture and Sports Mr Niaz Muhammad Abbas and Minister of State for Health and Social Welfare Mrs Afifa Mamdot.

Foreign Minister Prof Muhammad Shamsul Huq the counterparts of Pakistani Ministers and the Foreign Secretary were present at Bangabhaban when the delegation called on the Acting President.

The goodwill delegation came for offering Fateha at the Mazar of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman.

In his message the Pakistan President said 'the agony of Bangladesh in the wake of the tragic death of President Ziaur Rahman and the courageous response of its government and people have moved us deeply.'

President Ziaul Huq said "Our prayers and good wishes have always been with you and we are filled with admiration for the manner in which your Excellency and your colleagues have faced the aftermath of a national calamity of such magnitude".

He said 'it is reassuring for us to know that the institutions founded by the Late President and nursed by him and his dedicated associates like yourself have stood the strain of circumstances and will by the grace of Allah almighty steer Bangladesh safely through all difficulties.

The President of Pakistan in his message said that he had decided to send a five member delegation to pay a goodwill visit to Dacca.

He said "it is my wish that the leader of the ministerial delegation conveyed to you personally my sentiments and feelings for your excellency and for the people of Bangladesh."

President Ziaul Huq expressed the earnest hope that the visit of the ministerial delegation would contribute towards further strengthening of brotherly relations between the two countries.

Visits Smrity Shoudha

The Pakistani goodwill delegation on Wednesday morning offered Fateha and laid wreaths at the Mazar of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman.

The Pakistani Ministers in the delegation in white sherwani and pajama wore black bands.

Earlier the delegation laid wreaths at the Jatiya Shaheed Smrity Shoudha at Savar.

The Pakistani delegation members stood in silence before the memorial of martyrs of the War of Independence as the National Flag was lowered and there raised to the tunes of the lust post and reveille played by the Army band.

Bangladesh Additional Foreign Secretary Mr Abdul Bari and Pakistan Ambassador Dr. Humayun accompanied the delegation.

Meets Begum Zia

The Pakistani goodwill delegation comprising five ministers on Wednesday called on Begum Ziaur Rahman to express condolences of the government and people of Pakistan at the martyrdom of President Ziaur Rahman.

Foreign Minister Prof Muhammad Shamsul Huq was present at the residence of Begum Zia when the delegation called on her.

CSO: 4220/7244

NEW GUINEAN AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 3 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] The Ambassador designate of the Revolutionary Peoples Republic of Guinea Mr Thierno Habib Biallo presented his credentials to the Acting President Mr Justice Abdus Sattar at Bangabhaban on Wednesday morning, reports BSS.

While presenting the letter of credence, the Guinean Envoy said he would work for further strengthening the already existing friendly relation between the two countries. The friendship between Bangladesh and Guinea would continue to grow in the years to come, he added.

Reciprocating, the Acting President recalled the special relationship that the Late President Ziaur Rahman had established with Guinea under the leadership of President Seouke Toure. Justice Sattar expressed the confidence that the special relation will continue to be strengthened, he also recalled the visit to Bangladesh by Guinean President.

Mr Biallo who is the Resident Ambassador of Guinea in Peking concurrently accredited to Bangladesh has been specially instructed by President Seouke Toure to present his credentials in Bangladesh before he presented his letter of credence in Peking.

CSO: 4220/7244

MINISTER TALKS TO PRESS ON IMPORT, EXPORT POLICIES

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 3 Jul 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] The overall performance of the import substituting and the export-oriented industries will be reviewed by the Government from the current financial year on a continuing basis. The review to be undertaken jointly by the related agencies of the Government, will be aimed at assessing the actual contributions of the concerned agencies in the field of import substitution and export promotion.

Disclosing this at a Press conference, Chaudhury Tanbir Ahmed Siddiky Minister of State for Commerce said on Thursday that the monitoring of the performance on effective lines would enable the Government to examine all details relating to import entitlements, capacity utilisation, growth of physical output of the concerned industrial units and to assess the real impact of various concessions given to such units on their actual operations.

The State Minister observed that the Government would provide adequate safeguards to the local industries by way of either tariff protection or banning the import of items which were locally manufactured. But he added the local industries must convince the Government first of all that they were capable of meeting the domestic requirements out of their production in their respective fields. He stressed that the local industries must also make effective efforts to improve the quality of their products and also to ensure the availability of the same at the fair price to the consumers.

He assured the local manufacturers of spare parts that they would be given all protection provided they would ensure the availability of their products in the local markets at fair prices.

Dilating on the salient features of the new Import Policy, he noted that the allocation under it had been raised by about Taka 350 crore over the allocation made in 1980-81 with a view to ensuring the wider availability of various imported consumer goods and to accelerating the pace of performance in the industrial sector through adequate imports of raw materials and spares. He felt that another important objective of the Import Policy for 1981-82 was the protection given to the local industry by way of banning the import of some categories of spares and cotton yarn.

Chaudhury Tanbir Ahmed Siddiky gave a detailed breakdown of the funding pattern for the import programme of Taka 2950 crore in 1981-82. The cash resources for

the programme will be sized at Taka 1550 crore, the commodity assistance at Taka 530 crore and the remittances under the Wage Earners Scheme at Taka 600 crore. A sum of Taka 220 crore will come from the barter STA (Special Trade Agreements) sources. The rest Taka 50 crore will be mobilised through subsequent adjustments of funds from all the available sources such as cash, commodity assistance, WES barter STA.

The State Minister said that the industrial imports (raw materials and spares) would account for 79 per cent of the total import allocation in 1981-82. The finished and semi-finished items i.e. the commercial imports in 1981-82 will be about 21 per cent of the total allocation.

Commenting on the resource allocation pattern between the industrial imports and the commercial imports, he observed that the actual picture would amply bear out the fact that the bulk of the imports in the country were made for meeting the needs of the local industries for raw materials and spares. The criticism that the Import Policy has been responsible for the "flooding" of consumer goods in the country much to the detriment of the local industrial growth is not founded on facts, he added.

He stated that the Government was determined to stop the entry of smuggled goods into the local markets. Such smuggled goods in huge quantum have been responsible for the "flooding" of the markets with luxury goods he added.

He told the newsmen that the agencies of the Government carried out 'a mild operation' on July 1, '81 after the new Import Policy was announced to seize the smuggled goods and the operation succeeded to detect about 5,000 pieces of smuggled sarees from one marketing centre in the city. The drive against the smuggled goods would be strengthened further, the State Minister added while appealing to all sections of people to extend all-out co-operation in making it a success.

Choudhury Tanbir Ahmed Siddiky noted that the share of public sector in the overall import allocation in 1981-82 would stand at 63 per cent and the private sector, at 37 per cent. The public sector will import about 53 per cent of the industrial raw materials and spares and the private sector about 26 per cent, the overall share of the industrial raw materials and spares being 79 per cent of the total import allocation. In the case of import of finished and semi-finished goods which would account for 21 per cent of the total allocation, the private sector will be responsible for eleven per cent of the related imports and the public sector for ten per cent of the same he added.

He said that about 9800 new importers, mostly from the under-developed regions like Khulna and Rajshahi Divisions would be able to participate in the import trade in 1981-82.

The Minister of State for Commerce pointed out that the small-scale industries, having their import entitlements at Taka 50,000 or below, would be getting their licences at a time under the new Import Policy. This provision has been made with a view to helping the units to make viable operations he added. He stated that a block provision of Taka five crore had been made under the Import Policy for export-oriented industries in 1981-82.

He disclosed that the importers of palm oil would require to obtain valid certificates from the Ministry of Health and the Chamber of Commerce & Industry of the exporting countries with a view to dispelling any doubt in public minds about the quality of imported palm oil in the country.

Chaudhury Tanbir Ahmed Siddiky noted that instructions had already been given to the office of the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports to issue licences forthwith for the import of "sensitive" consumer goods.

He pointed out that the import bill on account of petroleum imports would be about Taka 902 crore in 1981-82.

Giving a review of the export performance in 1980-81, the State Minister said that the country had succeeded to raise its physical quantum of exports in case of all major items during the year but the sharp decline in the export prices in the international markets had caused lower level of export earnings. This resulted in a shortfall of about 300 crore Taka in the projected level of export earnings at Taka 1500 crore in 1980-81.

He stressed the need for more vigorous efforts to attain the export target of Taka 1500 crore in 1981-82. He felt that the emphasis should be placed on diversification of the country's export markets with a view to stabilising the export earnings.

He estimated that the country's cumulative trade deficit--the gap between the payments made on account of merchandise imports and the receipts earned through exports of commodities--would stand at about Taka 5315 crore during the last four-year period ending in 1980-81. Besides a vigorous export drive the promotion of industrial growth basing on local resources and raw materials should be encouraged to meet such huge trade imbalances, he observed. The more industrial units based on local raw materials and resources are set up in the country the less will be the import burden, he felt while pointing out that the existing industrial units with their production based on the availability of imported raw materials and spares as of now accounted for about 80 per cent of the total import allocation.

CSO: 4220/7245

MINISTER ANNOUNCES IMPORT POLICY FOR '81-82

Summary of Radio Speech

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 1 Jul 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] The new Import Policy for 1981-82 envisages a total allocation of Taka 2950 crore as against the provision of Taka 2600 crore for 1980-81. The increased allocation under the new Import Policy has been made with the aim of ensuring the wider availability of imported goods in the market for maintaining price stability.

Announcing the Import Policy for 1980-82 over the national radio and television on Tuesday Chaudhury Tanbir Ahmed Siddiky, Minister of State for Commerce stated that the new Import Policy had been formulated with its main theme focused on expediting the process of national development through adequate imports of essential consumer goods and industrial raw materials and spares.

The Import Policy for 1981-82 provides for continuing sanction of licences at 150 per cent of entitlements for the pharmaceutical industry. The industries in the Priority List I and II will get licences at the rate of one hundred per cent and 70 per cent of their entitlements while the new industries will be provided with licences at 30 per cent of their entitlements on a primary basis.

The import of spares which are manufactured in the country has been banned under the new policy. The usual importers will get the licences for the import of spares at the rate of only 50 per cent in 1981-82 of their requirements in place of the rate of 75 per cent in 1980-81. The import-substitution industries will get licences in proportion to their actual production during the last two years and their aggregate contribution (as per the recommendation) to the import-substituting sectors.

The Minister of State for Commerce noted that the new ban on import of such spares as welding electrodes some bicycle, jute and textile spares etc had been imposed to protect the domestic industry. He added that arrangements had also been made to offer tariff protection to some local industries. The process for giving protection to the domestic industry will continue, he noted while urging the owners of the domestic industries to improve the quality of their products and to ensure fair and reasonable price for such products.

Under the new Import Policy the export-oriented industries must submit their account about the utilisation of import licences and the aggregate contributions

to the export earnings in 1980-81 for the sanction of licences in 1981-82. Such industries must also give undertaking to the effect that they would export at least 15 per cent of their total production in 1981-82.

The export-oriented industries will continue to enjoy the facilities of advance import licences and XPL. Some new items have been included for import in the XPL list. The import allocation under the XPL list has been raised from Taka 45 crore to Taka one hundred crore. The importers under the Wage Earners' Scheme will also be eligible to utilise the XPL licences.

As a promotional measure for small and cottage industries the small-scale industrial units having import entitlements below Taka 50000 will get their licences at a time.

The target for import under the Wage Earners' Scheme in 1981-82 has been set at Taka 600 crore. The actual import under the WES in 1980-82 stood at Taka 475 crore as against the target of Taka 350.

About the commercial imports in 1981-82 the Minister of State for Commerce announced that the OGL system would continue but imports of some spare parts had been banned to protect the domestic industries. The allocation for the import of pesticides has been raised, he added.

The procedure for the time-limit set for opening the letters of credit has been simplified under the new policy. The commercial importers will be allowed to arrange the shipment within six months after registration of the L/Cs. In case of industrial importers, the time-limit as such would remain valid up to nine months. The shipment of machinery and spares needed for manufacturing and assembling will be allowed within the 12 months after the registration of L/Cs.

The minimum import allocation for the commercial importers has been set at Taka 30,000. The importers will however be allowed to form groups both after and before the registration of L/Cs. The importers from Rajshahi and Khulna Divisions which are the under-developed regions will be eligible to form groups with importers in their respective divisions.

The private importers have been given the last opportunity to utilise their licences for the import of cement. Such importers have not succeeded to utilise their licences for the import of cement in the previous years, the Minister of State noted.

Giving a review of the overall import performance in 1980-81 Chaudhury Tanbir Ahmed Siddiky stated that the utilisation was made in full to the amount of allocation at Taka 2600 crore during the year. The cash resources to the tune of Taka 1500 crore for funding the import programme were provided by the middle of the year, 1980-81. Effective measures were also taken for the import of milk food, pulses chillies onion ginger salt etc. to meet the temporary shortfalls in domestic supply. Besides the import by the private sector to improve the availability of some essential items, the Government arranged the import of such items through its interventionist policy during the year, he added.

The State Minister pointed out that many industrial units were given advance allocation to build up advance reserve in the industrial sector. Additional

funds were provided for the import of petroleum and petroleum products by way of implementing the related import programme he added.

Chaudhury Tanbir Ahmed Siddiky observed that the new Import Policy for 1981-82 had been formulated against the backdrop of world wide recession and inflation resulting in deteriorating terms of trade for the country. He felt that the new policy within the existing operational constraints had been a liberal, production oriented and pro-people one.

Highlights of Policy

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 1 Jul 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] Following are the highlights of the Import Policy for fiscal 1981-82 announced by the State Minister for Commerce Chowdhury Tanbir Ahmed Siddiky over Radio and Television on Tuesday evening reports BSS.

Total import under the Wage Earners Scheme (WES) has been raised from Taka 350 crore to Taka 600 crore in the new Import Policy. Educational toys and silk yarn have been withdrawn from the WES.

Pharmaceuticals industries put on priority list and will continue to get licences worth 150 per cent of their entitlements. Industries under priority list number one and two will continue to get licences respectively worth 100 per cent and 75 per cent of their entitlements. But the new industries would get licence worth 30 per cent of their entitlements.

Minimum share of commercial imports of Taka 30,000 to continue. Import under Open General Licences to continue.

Imports of over four feet lathe machines, low lift pumps and shallow tubewells have been banned. Nylon rope has been withdrawn from the import list.

Imports of GI wire up to 30 SWG welding electrodes some spares of bicycles and those of jute and cotton mills have also been banned.

Licence allocation under Export Performance Licences (XPL) has increased to Taka 100 crore from Taka 45 crore. Importers under WES will get XPL facilities along with commercial and industrial importers.

CSO: 4220/7240

BANGLADESH

BNP NOMINEE WINS IN COMILLA BYELECTION

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 1 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] The BNP nominee, Al-Haj Munshi Abdul Ali on Tuesday won the Comilla bye-election to a Jatiya Sangsad seat defeating his lone rival, an independent candidate by a huge margin according to results available in Dacca on Tuesday midnight.

The Election Commission sources told BSS that the BNP candidate was leading by 63 thousand 959 votes against his rival, Dr. Md. Mujibur Rahman (Independent) in 91 polling centres out of total 93 centres. Results from remaining two polling centres are yet to be available.

Out of total one lakh 63 thousand 276 votes in the Jatiya Sangsad Constituency Comilla 8, Al-Haj Munshi Abdul Ali polled 80 thousand 711 votes while his rival Dr. Mujibur Rahman secured 16 thousand 752 votes in 91 centres.

The seat fell vacant with the resignation of JSD member Mr. Abdur Rashid Engineer on April 30 last.

With the victory of Al-Haj Munshi Abdul Ali the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) will have 250 members in the 330 member Jatiya Sangsad.

CSO: 4220/7241

PAKISTAN GOODWILL TEAM ARRIVES IN DACCA

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 1 Jul 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] A five-member Ministerial goodwill delegation of Pakistan led by Mr Mahmood A Haroon, Interior Minister arrived in Dacca on Tuesday night "to share the tragic loss and grief" with Bangladesh at the martyrdom of President Ziaur Rahman, reports BSS.

Talking to newsmen at Kurmitola Airport Mr Haroon said that President Ziaul Huq would have come himself to share the tragic loss and shock with Bangladeshis and added he could not come for some preoccupations at home.

The delegation included Raja Zafarul Haq, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mr Fakhre Imam, Minister for Local Bodies and Rural Development, Mr Niaz Muhammad Arab, Minister for Health and Social Welfare.

Home Minister Mr A. S. Mustafizur Rahman, Information Minister Mr Shamsul Huda Choudhury, State Minister for Women's Affairs Mrs Taslima Abed and Deputy Minister for Local Government and Cooperatives Mrs Qamrunnagar Zafar received the Pakistani delegation at the airport.

Mr Haroon said that President Ziaul Huq had conveyed his feelings on the loss of Bangladesh and added he was carrying a special message from the President of Pakistan to the Acting President Mr Justice Abdus Sattar.

CSO: 4220/7241

BANGLADESH

SEIZED COMMUNICATIONS GEAR FLOWN BACK TO MOSCOW

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 30 Jun 81 p 1

[Text] Sophisticated communication equipment that were brought by the Soviet Embassy in Dacca illegally were flown back to Moscow by Aerofloat aircraft on Monday according to a source.

The communication equipment that included signal generator multimeter, frequency analyser and electric filter were brought in here in boxes along with construction materials. The airport customs seized both construction materials and communication equipment when some Soviet Embassy officials tried to take away them without going through normal customs check.

Bangladesh lodged strong protest with Soviet Union for bringing the equipment in an unauthorised manner and the issue was discussed in the Bangladesh Parliament which is now in its Budget Session.

Earlier, the head of the Press Information Department of the Soviet Embassy in a Press conference claimed that there was nothing other than construction materials brought by Soviet airliner. He said "enemies of friendship between Bangladesh and Soviet Union have raised the question about Soviet communication equipment".

CSO: 4220/7238

SEMINAR DISCUSSES INDIAN AGGRESSION AT TALPATTY

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 29 Jun 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] National politics must be geared to face a growing but crucial challenge posed by external expansionist powers which threatened to foil the independence and sovereignty of smaller countries of South and South East Asia, reports BSS.

This was observed by speakers at a seminar entitled "Indian aggression on South Talpatty and our national politics" held at the Dacca District Sports Association auditorium under the auspices of the Research Bureau of United People's Party (UPP) on Sunday.

Speakers at the seminar observed that in view of the recent development in Afghanistan and Kampuchea and the mounting tensions generated elsewhere in the world the sovereignty and independence of smaller countries were at stake as never before.

The speakers condemned the incident in which neighbouring India had violated the territorial waters of Bangladesh and forcibly occupied the South Talpatty island which belonged to Bangladesh.

The seminar was addressed among others by Kazi Zafar Ahmed Chairman of the UPP. Mr. Justice B. A. Siddiqui President of Bangladesh Muslim League Mr. Nurur Rahman President of NAP Kazi Mujibur Rahman Vice Chairman of UPP, Mr. Mostafa Jamal Haider General Secretary of UPP and Mr. Gias Kamal Choudhury an eminent journalist Dr. Syed Saffiullah Director of the Research Bureau of UPP conducted the seminar.

Speaking at the seminar Kazi Zafar Ahmed was highly critical of the Government for what he said "its kneel down policy" in dealing with the Indians with regard to the South Talpatty island. He alleged that it was due to this policy that "we are about to lose the island."

The UPP chief alleged that during the tenure of the present Government the country's independence and sovereignty had been at stake at different times in different forms.

He said India wanted to grab "our land and capitulate our country to make it a market and a protectorate."

Kazi Zafar said that because of her geopolitical situation in the region, Bangladesh was important to the Indo Soviet axis which he alleged, was engaged in a conspiracy to transform the country into a sphere of influence.

He also condemned a recent incident at Dacca International Airport where security personnel unearthed an illegal attempt by the Soviet Embassy to import radio equipment and described it as part of a greater Soviet hegemonistic design to extend her sway around the world.

Justice B. A. Siddiky in his speech expressed gratitude for Indian help during the War of Liberation at the same time lambasted "their unfriendly activities afterwards."

After the Independence of Bangladesh India had looted the country and tried to cripple "our economy", he said that the Farakka might be an Indian installation against Pakistan but today. It proved as a great threat to Bangladesh's very existence.

Justice Siddiky strongly criticised the present Government for what he said failure in establishing Bangladesh sovereign rights on the South Talpatty island the possession of which should have been taken in 1977, he observed.

National Awami Party leader Nurur Rahman addressing the seminar observed that the White Paper issued by the Bangladesh Government was not properly drafted which rather confused the people. He said that the failure on the part of the Government had proved its total apathy and independence to the vital issue.

Mr. Rahman observed that today the country need a Government which could defend the country against external aggression.

In his address, Mr. Mostafa Jamal Haider said that in the last few years, India had at least twenty times violated Bangladesh's territory. Talpatty was the latest in a series of such aggressions against the country's sovereignty.

He alleged that "the Soviet social imperialists" in collusion with the "Indian expansionists" were preparing to divide between themselves the sovereignty of the smaller countries in the periphery of the Indian Ocean.

Describing South Talpatty as "a test case" for probably future designs of the Indian expansionists to grab our land" and make it a sphere of influence Mr. Haider stressed the need for generating a greater political consciousness among the people and political parties to guard against such evil designs.

The UPP leader suggested that in the national politics there was need for identifying the agents of the expansionist powers to fight them out to save national independence and sovereignty.

In his speech Mr Gias Kamal Chowdhury stressed the need for unity among the smaller Third World countries to protect their sovereignty from the evil hands of the expansionist powers.

WITHDRAWALS, REDUCTIONS IN TAXES, DUTY ANNOUNCED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 27 Jun 81 p 1

[Text] Finance Minister Mr. Saifur Rahman announced on Friday the withdrawal of the new tax proposal on betel nuts in the Budget for 1981-82.

He also stated that the duties proposed on the import of industrial spare parts, cotton yarn, aluminium goods and also on the sale of wooden furniture had been reconsidered and the rates of such duties had now been proposed at a level lower than the ones proposed earlier.

His announcement on the withdrawal of proposed duties on betel-nuts along with the reconsideration of the original tax proposals on the import of industrial spare parts, cotton yarn, aluminium goods and also on wooden furniture came in the course of his winding-up speech in the Jatiya Sangsad on the day.

He stated that the reconsideration of the new tax proposals including the withdrawal of duty on betel-nuts had been made as a mark of respect to the suggestions made by the members from the Treasury as well as the Opposition benches.

The Finance Minister said that duty on import of industrial spare parts had been reduced to a concessionary rate of 40 per cent in view of the demands made by most members of the House. He said all items of spare parts would now be subject to only 40 per cent of duty. Earlier the Budget proposed withdrawal of concessionary duty rate of 20 per cent and fixation of 50, 75, 100, 25 and 150 per cent duties on various items of spare parts to encourage the local engineering industries. With the withdrawal of the new tax proposal on import of spare parts, the Government will loose a revenue of Taka 6 crore.

On the aluminium door and window frames 20 per cent duty had been proposed in the Budget. The Finance Minister said that in view of the request made by the Ministry Industries it had been decided to reduce the proposed rate from 20 to only 10 per cent.

The Finance Minister Mr. Saifur Rahman announced that the wooden furniture valued less than Taka 250 would not be subjected to new proposal to impose excise duty of 10 per cent. This meant that wooden furniture costing above Taka 250 would be subjected to excise duty of 10 per cent.

The Finance Minister also made strong defence of the reduction of excise duty on colour television to Taka 2,000 and Taka 3,000 per set from Taka 3,000 and Taka 4,500 respectively. He said that colour television should not be owned by the richer section in the society only. He said the reduction of duty had been proposed so as to give the common people easy access to colour T.V.

CSO: 4220/7231

BANGLADESH

MINISTER INAUGURATES NEW PETROBANGLA DRILLING PROJECT

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 26 Jun 81 p 1

[Text] Zakiganj (Sylhet) June 25:--Petrobangla today embarked on yet another drilling project as part of its country-wide search for oil and gas with the spudding of Atgram Test Well No. Nine reports BSS.

Kazi Anwarul Huq Minister for Power and Water Resources who is also in charge of the Minister of Petroleum inaugurated the drilling near here today.

In a brief speech at the drilling site Kazi Anwarul Huq listed political stability and smooth administration as the two basic preconditions for uninterrupted and successful implementation of national development programmes.

Given the two preconditions hard work and honest conviction can achieve the goals of national development he said "Even it would not be difficult for us to dig out the hidden wealth which Allah has bestowed for us beneath the earth".

The Atgram Test Well previously known as Zakiganj Drilling Project is being implemented under Petrobangla's Multi-well Drilling Programme (MDP) with a major West German grant.

Kazi Anwarul Huq referred to the optimism and convictions of late President Zia who always believed that there was an untold and invisible reserve of resources beneath our land which "we must dig out" with all sincerity and hard work.

He called upon the Petrobangla experts and technicians to be inspired with the enthusiasm and zeal of the late President in exploring and exploiting the country's natural resources to step up national development.

The function was also addressed among others by Mr. Sunil Kumar Gupta, State Minister for Petroleum and Mineral Resources Syed Muhibul Hasan State Minister for Social Welfare and Manpower Mr. S. Hasan Ahmed Chairman of Petrobangla and Mr. Umbruster, Economic Counsellor of the FRG Embassy.

The Atgram test well being drilled at an estimated cost of about Taka 28 crore, is scheduled to be completed by the middle of September this year. It is the second well under the multiwell drilling project the first being Beanibazar which has yielded commercial quantity of natural gas and liquid hydrocarbon.

The Atgram Drilling Project at Zakiganj is said to be one of the promising ventures in the Surma Basin and "there is a good possibility of striking oil" as some experts believed. The target is to drill up to a depth of 16,500 feet although experts are expecting to encounter gas and condensate from 5,000 feet and downwards.

The success at Beanibazar has led the experts to believe that positive results would be yielded at the Zakiganj structure since it was located in the similar oil and gas prone area on the north eastern periphery of the Surma Basin.

A total of 10 wells will be drilled under the Multiwell Drilling Project for which the West German Government has so far committed nearly Taka 78 crore as grant.

CSO: 4220/7228

EXPORT POLICY FOR '81-82 PRESENTED TO NATION

Summary of Radio Speech

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 2 Jul 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] The Export Policy for 1981-82, announced on Wednesday has set the target of export earnings at Taka 1500 crore for the year as against the anticipated level of foreign exchange earnings through exports at Taka 1200 crore in 1980-81.

With its main focus put on an all-out drive for producing more exportable surpluses in the country the policy for its smooth implementation will rely mainly on 'improving the existing procedures and formalities involved in the export trade, strengthening the facilities and incentives to the exporters raising the levels of investments in export-oriented industries and expanding the base of export-biased activities'.

Announcing the new Export Policy over the national radio and television on the day, Choudhury Tanbir Ahmed Siddiky Minister of State for Commerce stressed the need for continuing the export drive at a faster scale to counter the adverse balance of trade of the country. He felt that the rate of import growth had exceeded that of exports over the last few years resulting in huge trade imbalance on a recurring basis with many adverse consequences for the economy. He called for vigorous efforts on the part of all producers, suppliers and exporters along with persistent endeavours of the Government to reduce the continuing huge gap between the import payments and the export earnings of the country.

The new Export Policy projects that the jute sector including raw jute, jute goods jute carpets, jute yarn and rope etc would contribute to the national exchequer Taka 915 crore in 1981-82 which would be 61 per cent of the overall projected export earnings. The commodity-wise export target for other items has been set in the following manner: naptha furnace oil and bitumen Taka 66 crore; hides and skin Taka 120 crore; frozen food Taka 90 crore; tea Taka 77 crore; vegetables fruits betel leaves tobacco potato and other agricultural commodities Taka 113.50 crore newsprint paper and other paper products Taka 27 crore readymade garments Taka 14 crore; handicrafts Taka nine crore; electric cables, telephone wires, G.I. pipe super enamel cooperwire and other engineering products Taka three crore specialised textile household linen and cotton fabrics Taka three crore and animal fodder animal casings, molasses crude fertiliser glycerine, dried and salted fish etc. Taka 53 crore.

The Minister of State for Commerce maintained that the export target for 1981-82 had been set on a realistic basis after taking into consideration the prevailing situation in the international market, the prospects for production supply and domestic surpluses of export items, the proposals and recommendations of public and private trading circles Export Development Council, and the approval of the Government. The Government he said sincerely hopes that all agencies, both in public and private sectors will put in their best of efforts to attain the target and to help reduce the existing imbalances in the country's overall balance of trade position.

Under the new Export Policy two separate lists under the Export Performance Licencing (XPL) schemes at the amended rates of 60 and 40 per cent respectively would continue. Four new items--animal hooves and horns betel leaves, rice bran and wheat bran extracts and frozen frogs will be added to the XPL list and these items will get the licences under the scheme at the rate of 40 per cent of the respective export earnings. With the inclusion of four new items in the XPL list the total number of items in the related list will stand at 85.

The existing facilities for the exporters like customs rebate and duty refund income tax rebate, allocation of foreign exchange funds for meeting the business tours of the exporters abroad provision of concessional bank credit facilities at the rate of 12 per cent interest, etc will continue under the new Export Policy for 1981-82.

Chowdhury Tanbir Ahmed Siddiky stated that the concerned authorities was examining the issue of withholding fresh sanction to any new cold storage plant until the existing cold storage capacity for preservation of fish and shrimps was fully utilized. Similar step for ensuring the optimum utilisation of existing export-oriented industries by way of withholding sanction to creation of any new capacities is also under the active consideration of the Government.

He stated that more lands would be allocated for raising of shrimps and frog production on a priority basis. The cold storage units will get the preference in matter of sanction for the purchase of trawlers for deep-sea fishing he added.

Two More Export Zones Planned

The Minister of State observed that efforts must be continued to attract more joint venture projects in the export-oriented sectors. The work on the Export Processing Zone at Chittagong is in progress and projects for setting up two more export processing zones have been taken up he added. He called upon the private investors to avail themselves of the liberal facilities of the Government for the export-oriented industries. He also stressed the need for stepped-up efforts on the part of all concerned to improve the quality and standards of all exportable items.

Giving a review of the export performance in 1981-82 he said that the extreme form of recessionary and anarchical situation in the international markets and the drop in the demand for and the prices of export items had been responsible for our export earnings at a level below the related target. He observed that the prices of our principal export items registered a fall within the range of seven to 52 per cent depending on the nature of export items. Under such circumstances, the

country had earned less in financial terms during the year under review from her exports although the export trade in terms of physical volume in the case of some main export items had recorded an increase.

Chowdhury Tanbir Ahmed Siddiky stated that if the country's export items would have fetched the same prices as those of 1979-80, the export earnings would have increased by about more Taka 210 crore over the level of actual earnings in 1980-81. He added that the actual export earnings of the country during July-May period of 1980-81 totalled Taka 1059.16 crore. The overall yearly export earnings during the year would be around Taka 1200 crore which would be 20 per cent lower than the related target for the year, he mentioned.

Giving an item-wise breakdown of export earnings he stated that the share of primary products in the overall export earnings during July '80 to May '81 would be around 28.49 per cent while that of the industrial products at around 70.51 per cent. He pointed out that the export earnings from jute and jute goods would total Taka 718.76 crore and those from non-jute items, Taka 340.40 lakh during the same period of the last fiscal year.

Enumerating the export-promotional arrangements during 1981-82, he pointed out that the national export fair like the practice in the previous years would be held in this year. Besides, the practice for the award of the President's Export Trophy and awards will also be continued.

He announced that a high-level national committee had been formed to hold the second international Islamic Export Fair in Dacca. He noted that the decision to hold the fair in Dacca was taken at the Islamic Foreign Ministers' Conference.

Highlights of Policy

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 2 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] Following are the highlights of the Export Policy for fiscal 1981-82 announced by the State Minister for Commerce, Chowdhury Tanbir Ahmed Siddiky over Radio and Television in Dacca on Wednesday, reports BSS.

--Export target Taka 1500 crore.

--Share of jute and jute goods Taka 915 crore or 61 per cent.

--Share of non-jute products Taka 585 crore or 39 per cent.

--A new export baggage rule providing tourists to take local products mainly jute carpets and handicrafts after buying them in foreign currency to be introduced.

--Four new items included in the new export policy under XPL schemes.

--Second International Export Fair to be held in Dacca during the Islamic Foreign Minister's Conference.

--Bangladesh to participate in 17 export fairs including 13 international fairs.

--President's trophy for export to continue.

CSO: 4220/7243

COMMERCE MINISTER REPORTS PROGRAM TO STOP PRICE HIKES

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 17 Jun 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] An elaborate action programme has been chalked out by the government to improve the availability of critical consumption items with a view to containing the price pressures. The programme would include measures to augment supplies of items of daily consumption through imports by both Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) and the private sector, extended sales operation by the Consumers Supplies Corporation (COSCOP), increased quota for items for distribution through the public rationing system, effective monitoring of price movements throughout the country, etc.

Addressing the programme at a Press conference at his office chamber, Chowdhury Tanbir Ahmed Siddiky, Minister of State for Commerce, said in Dacca on Tuesday that the government attached special importance to the maintenance of adequate supply and stable prices of critical items of consumption, especially during the month of Ramzan. Mr. Abul Hasnat, Mayor, Dacca Municipal Corporation, was also present at the Press conference.

Detailing the programme, the Minister of State for commerce said that supply of sugar, edible oil and salt for distribution through ration shops in the statutory rationing area would be doubled for a period of six weeks commencing--from June 27, '81'. Additional quantities of edible oil, sugar and salt would be released for distribution in the modified rationing area. Besides, both sugar and edible oil will be available on free sale and in COSCOP shops at fair price, he added.

Mr. Siddiky noted that the supply of kerosene through the normal distribution network would be raised by about 20 per cent to make available this essential item available to the people at reasonable and fair price. The sale operations through the COSCOP will be strengthened and items like chilli, onion, pulses, gram etc would be supplied in increasing quantum for sales through the COSCOP shops in the country, he added.

He stated that supplies of meat, poultry and fish would be augmented in Dacca city and some principal consumption centres like Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi. He pointed out that the Dacca Municipal Corporation (DMC) would take measures to ensure the availability of mutton and beef in an increasing proportion during the month of Ramzan and also refix, the prices of the same items. Arrangements have also been made to augment supply of vegetable growth in four agriculture development estates in the country, he observed while pointing out that Bangladesh

Fisheries Development Corporation (BFDC) would concentrate its efforts on making arrangements for availability of fish in increasing quantum. BFDC will also reduce the price of some varieties of marine fish during the month of Ramzan, he added.

The state Minister said that the distribution chain of agencies like BFDC and BADC would be expanded as a part of the governmental action programme for stabilising the prices of essential items. Directorate of Livestock has taken up a programme for the first time, to arrange the sale of beef in packets at fair-price, he observed. In addition to COSCOR outlets all over the country, municipal community centres may also be utilised for the purpose of distribution of critical items of daily consumption, he added.

About milk food, he stated that TCB and COCSOR would put additional quantities of milk food on sale. While noting that a sufficient quantity of milk food has also been imported by the private sector, he said that Milk Vita would increase the supply of liquid milk and distribute increased quantities of powdered milk received from BEC through its dealers throughout the country.

Mr. Siddiky ruled out the possibility of any rise in the price of rice and noted that the government had adequate stocks of foodgrains. If the price of rice registers any rise in the market, the government will release additional supplies from its stocks, he said.

He admitted that damage to the production of onion, chillis, ginger, etc was due to off-season excessive rainfall and that of pulses due to the alternative use of land for wheat production. The ICB is importing sufficient quantities of chillis, onion, dal etc to meet the shortfall for distribution through COSCOR and ration shops, he pointed out. The Private Sector importers have been allowed to import chillis, onion dal ginger and salt free of duty and sales tax under the Wage Earners scheme, he added. When asked about the additional quantum of foreign exchange likely to be involved because of such imports to improve the domestic availability he said that it was not possible to answer this off-hand. He however assured there would no shortfall in foreign exchange for arranging needed imports of these critical items of consumption.

Replying to a question, he said COSCOR had as of now 164 sales centres throughout the country. The number of such sales centres in Dacca is 17, he added.

ANNIVERSARY OF 1975 NEWSPAPER CLOSINGS OBSERVED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 17 Jun 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] The journalists all over the country observed the Black Day on Tuesday in response to a call by Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists. On this day in 1975 all the newspapers of the country except four government controlled dailies and some weeklies were closed down by a stroke of pen by the then Baksal Government. Hundreds of newsmen and other employees of the industry were thrown out of employment.

The newspapers were closed down to gag the freedom of Press and to suppress expression of multi-party opinion in the society.

The Dacca Union of Journalists with Mr. Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury in the chair held a discussion meeting on the day at the National Press Club on Tuesday. The speakers at the meeting vowed to resist one-party rule in the country and to uphold the freedom of Press. They also said that the journalists of the country were committed to multi-party democracy and opposed to fascist rule.

The speakers demanded the abolition of Management Board and decontrol of the government owned newspapers. They criticised the present government for protecting the Baksal law which aimed at gagging the Press and controlling the newspapers.

ENA adds: Mr. Ahmed Humayun speaking at the meeting said the Journalists Union could not take stand against the annulment of newspapers and gagging of freedom of Press in 1975, but that did not imply that they would not be able to resist any move against freedom of the Press now.

He said the journalists union stood for the freedom of expression of all political views, irrespective of party affiliations and this must be ensured for healthy growth of multiparty democratic system in the country.

The BFUJ leader said the incident that took place on Jun 16, 1975 was a manifestation of "one party fascist politics" and no amount of "white wash" could conceal that stain". He said after the changes of 1975, the journalists union had upheld the cause of freedom of the Press and expression and continued their struggle uncompromisingly. He pointed out that when the government had cancelled the declaration of the weekly REPORTER the journalists union took up the issue and declaration was restored.

Mr. Enayetullah Khan said annulment of newspapers in 1975 by the then government was not an isolated event but part of its politics to suppress the democratic rights of the people and as such it must be condemned by all democratic forces.

Mr. Reazuddin Ahmed said the journalists would resist if there any fresh move to suppress the freedom of the Press or to impose an one party rule. He said the journalist community did not back out from its commitment to bring an end government control over newspapers. He pointed out that the journalists union was fighting for dissolution of Newspaper Management Board.

Mr. Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury said the journalist could not be complacent only by government assurance of uphold the freedom of the Press, he said "freedom of press cannot be secured unless it was institutionalised".

Mr. Amanullah Kabir said journalists community alone could not uphold the democratic values in the face of all powerful political force but it can very well serve as an "auxiliary force" to resist any anti democratic and anti people move. He hoped the journalist community will play its role unitedly to safeguard the democratic rights of the people in future.

CSO: 4220/7213

OIL MINISTER SPEAKS AT GAS WELL OPENING

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 17 Jun 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] Brahmanbaria, June 16:--The fifth well of Titas gas field with a capacity to produce an additional 30 million cubic feet daily was commissioned here today reports BSS.

This will bring the total production capacity of the Titas field to 150 million cubic feet daily.

The project was implemented under a British grant worth over Taka eight crore. The British grant helped finance the foreign exchange component of the Taka 10 crore project.

Petroleum Minister Akbar Hossain inaugurated the Titas well no 5 at a simple function at the site near Brahmanbaria town.

Work on the project started in October last year and the drilling was completed in January.

Inaugurating the production well and its dehydration plant, the Petroleum Minister said that economic constraints in the field of exploration stood in the way of implementing different projects.

But he thanked the British Government as well as the governments of Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) USSR, Belgium Holland France and other countries which had been supporting Bangladesh's oil and natural and exploration efforts and development programmes.

The Minister said that the new well at Titas would produce as a by product 45 barrels of condensate oil, besides the Minister disclosed that the Titas well no. 5 would enable an additional sale of gas worth Taka 14 crore providing oil import replacement worth Taka 70 crore.

The function was addressed among others by Mr. S. S. Hasan Ahmed, Chairman Petrobangla Mr. Charles Clift First Secretary of the British High Commission Mr. Charles Whitbourn, British Petroleum Project Coordinator and Mr. Anwarul Islam Chairman of Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Limited which own the Titas gas field.

Paying tributes to late President Ziaur Rahman, the Minister described him as the main driving force behind all exploration and development projects in the oil and gas sector of the country.

He said the late President had the farsight and prudence about the potentials of the country's natural resources particularly in the energy sector and that was why he had always emphasised the need for quickly exploring them for the benefit of the people.

CSO: 4220/7213

FOOD MINISTER ANSWERS MP'S QUESTION ON RATIONING

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 25 Jun 81 p 1

[Text] Food Minister Mr Abdul Momen Khan told the Jatiya Sangsad on Wednesday that the Government had no plan to withdraw the present rationing system.

He was replying to a question by Kazi Mohammad Abu Yousuf, in reply to a separate question by Mohammad Joynal Abedin Bhuiya, the Food Minister said that the Government had given a total subsidy of Tk. 46.15 crore for the items under ration during 1979-80.

Mr Momen Khan said that at present six cities and towns were covered by full rationings system. A total of 2.46 lakh tons of rice, 2.46 lakh tons of wheat, 47 thousand tons of sugar, about 11 thousand tons of salt and 24 thousand tons of edible oil were distributed in the rationing areas during 1979-80.

The Food Minister said that a total of 4.47 lakh tons of rice, 14.62 lakh tons of wheat, 36 thousand tons of sugar, 51 thousand tons of salt and 14 thousand tons of edible oil were distributed in the rural areas and the areas outside the statutory rationing areas in 1979-80.

Mr Momen Khan said that the Government had plans to reduce the subsidies on the rationed items in phases.

Food Stock

Mr Momen Khan told the Sangsad that a total of 12.71 lakh tons of foodgrains was in the Government stock on May 31, 1981. The stock included 7.31 lakh tons of rice and 5.40 lakh tons of wheat, he added.

The Food Minister said that agreements were signed with 11 countries and international organisations to import 6.72 lakh tons of foodgrains during 1980-81 to meet the deficit.

Replying to a separate question by Mr Awsafur Rahman, the Food Minister said that the Government had purchased 2.51 crore maunds of paddy from the growers and others during 1980-81 (till June 16) at a cost of Tk. 284 crore. Of this, he said, 1.76 crore maunds were stored in Government godowns 73 lakh maunds were stored in hired godowns and 1.75 lakh maunds were kept outside the godowns.

Indian Rice

Mr Momen Khan also revealed that the Government made final arrangements to give back 50,000 tons of rice to India during the current financial year.

Replying to a question by Mr S A Khaleq (BNP) in the Jatiya Sangsad during the question hour, the Food Minister said that 1.5 lakh tons of rice was imported from India in 1978-79. He said that the remaining one lakh tons would be given back during the next financial year (1981-82).

Profit Bonus for Workers

Labour and Industrial Welfare Minister Mr Reazuddin Ahmed told the Jatiya Sangsad on Wednesday that the Government was actively considering to increase the existing two and a half per cent profit bonus to the industrial workers.

He was replying to a written question by Mr Mohammad Toaha (BSD) during the question hour. Replying to a separate written question by Mr Mahbubur Rob Sadi Choudhury (JSD), Mr Reazuddin said that there was a provision under the present Labour Law to form "participation committee" comprising equal number of members of the management and the workers representatives in nationalised industries where the number of workers were 50 or above. Replying to another question by Al-Haj Shafiqullah he said that arrangements were made to settle labour cases in the labour courts within 60 days.

Aid for Flood Victims

Mr Emran Ali Sarkar, Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation told the Jatiya Sangsad on Wednesday that the Government had sanctioned Tk. 12 lakh as house building grant, 33,149 maunds of wheat as free distribution and another 28,500 maunds of wheat for test relief for the victims of recent tornado, cyclone and sudden floods in the country.

He was replying to a question by Mr Abdul Matin.

CSO: 4220/7226

BRIEFS

BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER--Mr. Frank Mills, CMG, has been appointed British High Commissioner to Bangladesh, according to a Foreign Office announcement in Dacca on Thursday, reports BSS. Mr. Mills will succeed Sir Michael Scott, the present British High Commissioner at Dacca. An experience career diplomat, Mr. Frank Mills was born in 1923, joined British Commonwealth Relations Office in 1948 and served in various capacities both in Commonwealth Relations Office and in different British missions abroad. He was appointed British High Commissioner in Ghana in 1975. At present he is an Assistant Under-Secretary of State, Commonwealth Relations Office in London. Mr. Frank Mills is married and has three children. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 26 Jun 81 p 1]

FOOD WAREHOUSES--Chittagong, June 25:--Mr. A. S. Prue Chowdhury, Minister of State for Food, said here on Wednesday that concerted efforts had already been made to ensure godown facilities in every procurement centres says a PID handout. The Minister was visiting a number of newly constructed food godowns at Hathazari and Dewanhat, in Chittagong on Wednesday. He was addressing a cross section of people on Wednesday at Dewanhat Central Storage Depot. Explaining the measure taken to expedite setting up of food godowns, the Minister said that about 100 food godowns had already been constructed in Chittagong Division during this financial year and 100 more will be completed soon. Referring to the role of internal procurement to ensure fair prices to the farmers the Minister said that Government had already intensified internal procurement and 10 lakh tons of foodgrain had so far been procured during this year he added. He urged the officials to work honestly and sincerely to achieve the objective of procurement drive so that the growers are benefited. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 26 Jun 81 p 8]

FOREIGN AID UTILIZED--Bangladesh utilised 7,800 million US dollar out of a total 10,700 million dollars mobilised as external assistance during the current financial year, the Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman told Jatiyo Sangsad on Thursday night reports BSS. Speaking on the coming year's Budget the Prime Minister told the House that the commitment of foreign aid was 1,710 million dollar and disbursement was 1200 million dollar. The commitment for the coming 1981-82 year was estimated at 2,300 million dollar while disbursement at 1,400 million dollar. The Prime Minister said the net inflow of foreign aid in Bangladesh was "very low" in comparison to other developing countries. The per capita inflow of foreign aid to Bangladesh is 10 US dollar this compares with Indonesia at 20 dollar Kenya at 21 dollar Egypt at 60 dollar Tanzaniq at 38 dollar Sri Lanka at 16 dollar and Philippines at 25 dollar. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 27 Jun 81 p 12]

HEALTH MINISTRY CHANGE--The Acting President Justice Abdus Sattar on Monday assigned the charge of the Ministry of Health and Population Control to Dr M A Matin also in addition to Ministry of Youth Development according to an official announcement in Dacca on Monday night reports BSS. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 30 Jun 81 p 1]

SOCIAL RECONSTRUCTION ORGANIZATION--A new organisation under the name of Social Reconstruction Organisation was formed at a meeting of people representing different shades of opinion on Sunday at Abu Dhar Giffary College premises. Presided over by Mr Mohammad Mozammel the meeting was largely attended. A 37-member convening committee with Mr Abdul Gaffur as the Convener was formed at the meeting. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 3 Jul 81 p 8]

ELECTION DATE PROTEST--An emergency meeting of Bangladesh Workers Party held on Tuesday demanded of the Government to shift the date of presidential polls, lift emergency, stop arresting political workers and ensure neutrality of the mass media. The meeting presided over by Mr. Haider Akbar Khan Rano, General Secretary, expressed its opposition to any amendment to the constitution that sought to serve the interests of "any individual" and demanded re-introduction of the constitution of 1972. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 3 Jul 81 p 3]

AMBASSADOR TO SYRIA--The Government has decided to accredit concurrently Mr Humayun Kabir at present Bangladesh Ambassador in Teheran; as Ambassador to Syrian Arab Republic; says an official announcement in Dacca on Wednesday. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 3 Jul 81 p 3]

NEW MEXICAN AMBASSADOR--Mrs Graciella De La Lama has been appointed Ambassador of Mexico to Bangladesh with residence in New Delhi. She held important positions in the Government of Mexico prior to her appointment as Ambassador to India, according to an official source. Born in 1933 Mrs Graciella obtained her Master's Degree in Philosophy from National Autonomous University of Mexico and Phd from Sorbonne University, Paris. Mrs Graciella is a reputed scholar and noted author of many publications. She knows English, French, Sanskrit and German. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 3 Jul 81 p 3]

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE--Bogra, July 2: Mr. Zillur Rahman an advocate declared his candidature for the coming presidential poll. He is son of one jute traders of Tallatola village under Gabtali PS. Mr. Rahman claimed that he had been supported by large people and the members of Bogra Bar. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 3 Jul 81 p 8]

SRAMIK DAL EXPELLEES--A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Tongi regional unit of Bangladesh Jativatabadi Sramik Dal has expelled Mr Mohammad Hossain Mr Abul Kalam and Mr Kasim Uddin Vice-President Joint Secretary and Sports Secretary respectively of the unit from the organisation and stripped them of their official positions. According to a Press release the action was taken against them in view of their anti-organisational and anti-people activities. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 29 Jun 81 p 8]

ELECTION COMMISSION SECRETARY--Mr. Hossain Ahmed formerly Secretary Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock has taken over-charge as Secretary Bangladesh Election Commission on Tuesday an official handout said in Dacca reports ENA. Md. Khorshed Anwar, former Secretary of the Election Commission has assumed the charge of the office of the Secretary Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock on Tuesday. After assuming the charge of his office in the Election Commission on Tuesday Mr. Hossain Ahmed met the officers of the Election Commission where the Chief Election Commissioner Mr. Justice A. K. M. Nurul Islam and the Election Commissioner Mr. A. M. Choudhury were also present. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 25 Jun 81 p 8]

BNP EXPELLEE--Dr. Md. Muibur Rahman member of Comilla Sadar North political district of BNP, has been expelled from the party for violation of discipline, a BNP press release said, reports BSS. The decision of expulsion was taken unanimously at a special meeting of the National Standing Committee of the BNP on Monday. The Press release said Dr. Rahman had been expelled because of the violation of party discipline by contesting in the coming by-election of Comilla-8 as independent candidate without the approval of the party. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 16 Jun 81 p 1]

BURMESE JUTE PURCHASE--Bangladesh will export jute goods worth about Taka five crore to Burma, reports BSS. According to a report reaching Dacca on Monday, the two countries signed an agreement Saturday in Rangoon under which Bangladesh will sell gunny bags worth 12 lakh 74 thousand three hundred and 20 Pound sterling (about Taka five crore). The agreement was signed between Myanma Export Import Corporation of Burma and Bangladesh embassy in Rangoon on behalf of Trading Corporation of Bangladesh. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 16 Jun 81 p 12]

ILO MEMBERSHIP--Bangladesh has been elected a member of the Governing Body of International Labour Organisation (ILO) for another three year term getting the highest number of votes among the Asian Group according to a message received in Dacca on Tuesday says a PID handout. Elections to the ILO Governing Body were held at the 67th Annual Conference of the ILO now in session in Geneva. Minister for Labour and Industrial Welfare Mr Reazuddin Ahmed led Bangladesh delegation to the conference which commenced on June 3. Mr. Ahmed returned to Dacca on June 5. Election of Bangladesh to the ILO Governing Body for another three year term is a testimony to the prestige earned for the country by the dynamic leadership of late President Ziaur Rahman the source added. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 17 Jun 81 p 12]

IRAQI AID--Iraq has donated an amount of US \$3,60,000 for same Islamic projects and organisation in Bangladesh, says a PID handout. Cheques for this amount was handed over to Religious Affairs Minister Mr. Abdur Rahman by the Iraqi Ambassador Mr Arif Mohammed Ali Karim on Friday. Out of this total amount US \$2,50,000 has been provided to the Ministry of Religious Affairs for same projects of the Ministry. The remaining US \$1,10,000 will be received by the Institute of Islamic Education and Research, Gulshan Central Mosque and Eidga and the World Islam Mission. The Iraqi donation has been made as per discussion held between Religious Affairs Minister Mr Abdur Rahman and Iraqi Minister for Awqaf and Religious Affairs Mr. Noori Faisal Shahir during the latter's visit to Bangladesh last month. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 20 Jun 81 p 3]

AMBASSADOR TO NEPAL--The Government has decided to appoint Mr. Harunur Rashid at present Deputy High Commissioner of Bangladesh in Calcutta as Ambassador of Bangladesh to Nepal said an official handout on Saturday says ENA. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 21 Jun 81 p 1]

ELECTION DATE PROTESTED--Eighteen political parties on Monday jointly called for refixing the date of Presidential election in the third week of November, reports ENA. The meeting was presided over by elderly leader Ataur Rahman Khan. In a resolution they said the "hastily" announced election date by the government without any consultation with opposition parties was designed to hold the election anyway to remain in power. Moreover, the resolution said the election date has been fixed without taking into consideration the practical difficulties which will arise because of coming Ramazan and rainy season. The resolution said when there is Constitutional provision for holding election within 180 days the Government could refix the date on a more favourable date ensuring larger popular participation in the polls. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 23 Jun 81 p 12]

UNICEF AID AGREEMENT--An agreement for 1.4 million U.S. dollar for development of social services in Bangladesh was signed in Dacca on Monday between the government of Bangladesh and the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund in Dacca, says an official announcement. The programme of operation will cover the areas of activities of basic functional education and income generation skill training in children's homes and Care Protection Centres, training in different trades and skills for women belonging to disadvantaged families in rural and poor urban locations. Mr. A B S Safdar, Secretary, Ministry of Manpower Development and Social Welfare signed the agreement on behalf of the government of Bangladesh while Mr. Yoon Gu Lee, Officer-in-Charge of Dacca Office, on behalf of the UNICEF. [Excerpts] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 23 Jun 81 p 8]

CSO: 4220

UTTAR PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER RESHUFFLES CABINET

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 8 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] Lucknow, July 7.

In a sudden move today Chief Minister V. P. Singh divested his senior-most colleague Brahma Dutt of his portfolio of Power, leaving with him planning and Finance.

During her last visit to Lucknow, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had criticised the poor performance of the power department.

In the reshuffle of portfolios, a surprise change was withdrawal of Information, National Integration, Cultural Affairs, Panchayat Raj and Rural Development from Mr Ammar Rizvi, who was supposed to be very close to the Chief Minister. Mr Rizvi was, however, allotted the important portfolio of PWD.

Mr Jagdish Prasad, who was so far Minister for PWD has been allotted Law and Justice.

Another senior Minister, Mr Brahma Singh, has lost Agriculture. He has been allotted Rural Development and Panchayat Raj.

Mr Ehanu Pratap Singh, who was so far holding the portfolio of Cane Development has been given Agriculture. The other portfolios have been retained by the Chief Minister himself.

The Chief Minister inducted only two Ministers of States Bachcha Pathak and Ram Naresh Shikla in the Council of Ministers. They are said to be close to former Union Minister Kamalapati Tripathi.

Governor C P N Singh administered the oaths of office and secrecy to the two new entrants at a simple but impressive ceremony at Raj Bhawan, add agencies.

With the swearing-in of the two new Ministers of State, the strength of the Vishwanath Pratap Singh Ministry has risen to 44 including 19 Ministers of State and eight Deputy Ministers.

The Chief Minister told newsmen that expansion of the Ministry was a continuous process.

Chief Minister V P Singh was today sworn in as a member of the State Vidhan Sabha.

Mr Singh was elected to the Vidhan Sabha in the by-election from Tindwari Assembly constituency last month.

Seven other newly-elected members who were sworn in by the Speaker are: Mr Krishan Veer Singh, Mr Jagdish Narain, Mr Daljeet Singh, Mrs Pushpa Chauhan, Balik Mohammed Zahir Ahmad and Mr Siander Ali Khan, all belonging to Cong-I and Mr Virendra Pratap Shahi (Ind).

CSO: 4220/7206

MANIPUR PLA REPORTED ALMOST TOTALLY CRUSHED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 8 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] Calcutta, July 7.

In a major swoop by the security forces, seven top activists of the outlawed Peoples Liberation Army of Manipur were killed and its leader N. Bisweswar Singh arrested last night.

According to a spokesman of the Eastern Command, with this operation, the PLA in Manipur has almost been totally crushed.

This great success was achieved after a 2-hour gunbattle at a tiny village called Tekcham, about 40 kms from Imphal.

Eastern Command BCS Brig V K Sood told a hurriedly called press conference at Fort William this afternoon that during special operations launched in areas around Thoubal, about 30 kms from Imphal on the same day Bisweswar Singh was apprehended along with another extremist.

Bisweswar Singh is the undisputed leader of the banned revolutionary government of Manipur and has been the brain behind the activities of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) in that State.

In all there were 19 hardcore extremists in PLA, who got training in Lhasa in 1978-79. Now only one of them, Kunja Behari Singh, still remains in large. Brig Sood said the most significant success was the capture of Bisweswar Singh, who is a committed Maoist and a legendary figure in Manipur and had a prize of rupees one lakh over his head.

Brig Sood said one contingent of Jammu and Kashmir Rifles went into operation after receiving secret information about the group's whereabouts. There was heavy exchange of fire between the security forces and the extremists, and the commander of the operation himself got injured.

Four among the seven extremists killed in the encounter were identified as Thougan Kobi Charan Singh, Althokpam Rajan Macha Singh, Ladegram Indrajit Singh and Khoijan Bir Mangal Singh.

In reply to a question, Brig Sood said there was no doubt about the identification of Bisweswar Singh. It was cross-checked from many sources. He is a sick man suffering from tuberculosis he added.

CSO: 4220/7206

INDIA

GANDHI ALLEGED TO PLAN PRESIDENTIAL GOVERNMENT

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 8 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] Allahabad, July 7 (PTI)--Democratic Socialist Leader H N Bahuguna alleged today that Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was secretly continuing an exercise to introduce the presidential form of government and dispense with the Parliamentary system of democracy.

On the on-going exercise, Mr Bahuguna told newsmen here some foreign constitutional lawyers and jurists had also been involved by Mrs Gandhi.

Mr Bahuguna said the current study covered political systems of such countries as that of Philippines, Japan and Australia in the eastern hemisphere and France, West Germany, Ireland, USA, Canada and some Scandinavian countries.

But Mr Bahuguna said he was confident that a section of Congress-I members of the Lok Sabha would foil Mrs Gandhi's bid to 'foist' on the country 'a hodgepodge' presidential system.

He said he had already got assurances from them as from certain opposition groups supporting her at present that they would come out openly whenever a motion was made.

Mr Bahuguna called for opposition unity in preserving the right of vote which he said was now in 'grave peril.'

Mr Bahuguna indicated that the efforts now 'under way to bring together opposition parties on the limited issue of safeguarding the Parliamentary system of democracy in the country would take a 'concrete shape' by the end of the month.

CSO: 4220/7206

STUDY ON FREEDOM OF PRESS IN INDIA SUMMARISED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 8 Jul 81 p 5

[Text]

A in-depth study undertaken at the request of the Press Council of India has pinpointed provisions of certain existing statutes as being inconsistent with the concept of freedom of the press in India reports UNI.

The study has also highlighted certain other provisions which need to be amended as these have a tendency to fetter the free flow of information.

The study was undertaken by the Indian Law Institute New Delhi to find out the damage done to the freedom of the press by the Official Secrets Act, the Contempt of Courts Act, parliamentary privileges and other statutory provisions.

The study has called for liberalisation of the present strict rules of Official Secrecy "to enable the press to discharge its social function of informing the public about the policies and programmes of the government".

It says: "The two wings of the Government, namely, the legislature and the judiciary, function in the open... on the other hand, the executive does its business in its secret chambers to which the people have hardly any access.

"India with its pattern of mixed economy and socialistic state is one of the most governed nations in the world: the state fixes prices, acquires goods and property, regulates sale, purchase and distribution of goods through licensing and other means, carries on trade and business, runs industries and other services controls regulates and gives credit and

money, gives bounties of various kinds deains persons in preventive detention affects personal liberty in various ways and regulates the economic and social life of the people".

It warns there is an inherent danger that the vast powers of the executive may not be used for public welfare but used for private gain or with corrupt motives or arbitrarily and capriciously. In this context it is essential for the public to know what the Government is doing.

PROPER BALANCE

While stressing that openness is essential to the functioning of a democratic society, the study concedes that secrecy is also necessary to protect certain vital national interests such as defence, national security, foreign relations, criminal law, personal privacy and trade secrets.

It is however, of the view that while a proper balance has to be drawn between the needs of openness and the requirements of secrecy, this balance has to be tilted in favour of openness than it has been hitherto.

The study says "Innumerable instances can be given where the most trivial matters are treated as secret which do not serve any interest of the nation except saving the government from embarrassment. The reports of various inquiry committees and commissions (like plane crashes or accidents) are treated as secret. The recent reports of the Bihar CID and DIG into Bhagalpur blindings of the undertrials are being treated as secret and all kinds of subterfuges are being used by the Bihar Government

to withhold their production before the Supreme Court".

Another extremely odd instance of government secrecy is that by an administrative order issued on 30 April, 1976 the government directed its departments not to submit confidential files of policy questions to the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. The idea was to stall the possible adverse comments of the Comptroller on the very large amounts spent on 'populist programmes' by the Government. Fortunately, these instructions were later withdrawn.

DISMAY

The study has expressed dismay that quite often the Government uses the weapon of "official secrecy" to prevent investigation by the press, or publication of a news. This may be by way of threat which takes place quite often, or even prosecution. Even in England with its traditions of individual liberty and press freedom the government has behaved similarly.

A study of the public prosecutions and private pressures applied in Britain to newspapers under the Official Secrets Act during the last 50 years shows all too clearly that this law has often been used to restrict free expression and investigation on the activities of the government. It says the position is the same in India. In India for giving communication to the press there is the government's Press Information Bureau (PIB).

"Its original idea was to supply news to the press, but according to one journalist, PIB

has failed to discharge its function of providing news and has deterred access to information. It acts as a good public relations office on behalf of the Government by highlighting its good performance or only giving 'development news' aimed at projecting the good work. "Uncomfortable facts are not allowed to be checked. This is true in particular of news concerning foreign relations, nothing that the South Block does not consider 'news' is accessible to newsmen. Both the timing and context are decided by it. And quite often journalists are supposed to publish the official line but make it appear as their own. This is considered to be in national interest.

The judiciary has not yet taken the view that if disclosure is justified in the public interest no prosecution can be launched against the persons concerned.

The fact that the Official Secret Act has hitherto been reasonably administered is no guarantee that it will continue to be so administered in future.

The study feels that Section 5 of the Official Secrets Act is a catch-all provision and hinders the publication of information which is not prejudicial to legitimate national or private interests but whose publication may be in the interest of the community as against the interests of the political party in power. It is therefore essential to restrict its operation by specifically defining the types of information which need protection from disclosure.

ANOTHER SAFEGUARD

The study feels it is essential to have another safeguard for the individual and this pertains to control of prosecutions. In England the Attorney General

exercises control over prosecutions under the Official Secrets Act. But this has been subject to criticism. The Attorney General is a politician and a member of the Government and this creates a doubt in his objectivity. In India though the Attorney General is not a politician or a member of Parliament yet he is a political appointee and he is more concerned with protecting the interests of the party in power than the individual.

Giving of control over prosecutions to the Attorney General does not seem to be a satisfactory solution. Alternatives should be explored. It may be appropriate to entrust the task to a committee consisting of the Attorney General the chairman of the Press Council and another nominated member of the Council.

REPORT ON PAPER TO BE PRESENTED AT UN ENERGY MEET

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 8 Jul 81 p 5

[Text]

Orthodox kitchen traditions are as much a handicap in harnessing the sun the wind or organic waste as high capital cost and the still inclusive search for a package of alternate energy sources for a particular area.

The Indian experience is highlighted in a paper prepared by the Department of Science and Technology's special commission for alternate sources of energy for presentation at the UN conference to be held in Nairobi in August.

The National Paper, as it is called, stresses the importance of a massive public relations programme to bring home the advantages of harnessing renewable energy sources even as the research continues to make the projects economical and efficient.

Towards this composite goal, India feels that while developing countries will have to do much work themselves, the developed countries, who are the major consumers of oil and coal should take the initiative.

It calls for eliminating tariff and non-tariff barriers against products relating to alternate energy technologies exported by developing countries, subsidies for research and development and bilateral and multi-lateral arrangements for transfer of technology.

The paper surveys the progress made by India in various fields — including solar energy, wind energy, hydel energy and researches in even tapping energy of the seas.

In a special section, the National Paper analyses the factors that have slowed down the development and adoption of these technologies.

CONSTRAINTS

The most important constraints in the wider utilisation of renewable energy systems are the high

initial capital costs. The cost of a solar or wind device today is considerably higher than that of the product based on conventional fuels. In a country like India, where capital is relatively scarce and where individual earnings are not high, this indeed is a deterrent to most potential users of renewable energy systems.

The low level of production on account of this in turn inhibits any cost reduction that may be achieved through a large volume of production. Once again it is developing countries which are more seriously affected by this vicious circle.

Even in the case of hydro-power where the technology is already well developed, large initial investments are required to fully exploit the hydroelectric potential in addition to long gestation periods for hydroelectric projects. Relatively simple unit such as biogas plants are also beyond the reach of a large percentage of farmers.

The problem of high cost of renewable energy system can only be overcome through technology improvement, material and manufacturing development, and a package of fiscal and other promotional measures, the paper says.

For example, a breakthrough in solar photovoltaic systems can be expected if the costs of producing solar grade silicon and solar cell manufacture are brought down to a fraction of the current levels. Cheaper windmills and accessories will become available when material and component costs are brought down.

Likewise, developments in technology are necessary to bring down the cost of batteries for energy storage or electric vehicle applications, mini and micro

hydro sets and other devices' systems for the utilisation of renewable energies.

India points out that there is a fear that developing countries will not be able to benefit from advances in technology as long as there are difficulties in having access to these advances.

NEED FOR SUBSIDY

The conventional energy structure is artificially priced in many countries including India. The capital investment in conventional energy supply is borne by the energy supplies (in India, largely the public sector) while for renewable energy utilisation, the user has to incur the initial investment also.

It is therefore essential that a system of subsidies and incentives is introduced at least in the initial stages so that renewable energy systems become economically competitive. Such a scheme is already in vogue in India in the case of biogas plants. This calls for action largely at the national level though international agencies and financial institution may have a role here.

As the use of conventional fuels increased in the past decades, a vast infrastructure for manufacture, distribution, supplies, maintenance and servicing has been built up in most countries. Even in India where only 25,000 out of the total 5,70,000 villages have been electrified, there is a significant infrastructure for the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity and for the manufacture, sales and servicing of devices which run on electricity.

This infrastructure will expand further during the sixth Plan when an additional 100,000 villages are expected to be electrified.

Also, in spite of certain shortcomings, a distribution network has been built up for the supply of conventional fuels such as coal, kerosene and diesel oil. There is no such infrastructure to match in the renewable energy sector. Any widespread utilisation of renewable energies will require a suitable infrastructure for the manufacture, installation and servicing of renewable energy systems.

This is even more important when decentralised autonomous installations are to be propagated, India notes.

INADEQUACY

The inadequacy of institutional framework has been felt even in the case of biogas where the technology has been commercialised for long time in India and the plants are basically simple. A socio-economic evaluation of biogas systems in India carried out under the sponsorship of Department of Sciences and Technology has brought out many issues related to technical information, promotional agencies, manpower, manufacture and maintenance. For instance, out of 173 plants surveyed in four States 96 were located in villages which had no

repairing centre. Only about 22 per cent of the plants had a service centre within a distance of five km.

The problem of infrastructure development obviously related to economic considerations, socio-cultural parameters and general awareness. Special efforts will be needed for the development of infrastructure for the expected to pose serious maintenance problems, the paper says. If community biogas plants and integrated energy systems are to be installed in village, trained workmen will be required to operate and maintain them.

The problem of spreading awareness of renewable energy systems is common to many countries of the world. Even in India where there have been certain traditional ways in which renewable energies have been used, awareness have to be promoted for new techniques for efficient utilisation of solar energy. Even in industry, the paper notes, a large section not aware of the need for, or the ways of, conserving energy and utilising renewable sources.

STRESS ON PUBLICITY

India stresses the need for an organised programme of publi-

city and promotion which can lead to useful results. Most owners of biogas plants became aware of such plants only during the 1970s when significant efforts in this direction were launched. Owners decided to install the gas plants the same year in which they became aware of such plants. Significantly, this is true irrespective of the level of education of the owners (at the same time only 5 per cent of the plant owners surveyed were illiterate, the paper says).

The spread of modern renewable energy may also be limited by the fact that large percentage of the population is illiterate and the people themselves divided into a large number of languages and dialects; these two factors affect communication which is essential for any awareness programme.

Any technical literature will have to be prepared in a style that is easy to understand and translated into various languages. Enough experience in this regard is however available through other national programmes relating to agriculture and health.

DECLINE IN REMITTANCES FROM INDIANS ABROAD NOTED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 8 Jul 81 p 8

[Text] Madras, July 7 (PTI).

Remittances from Indians residing in the West Asia countries of late has shown a marked decline and the trend is likely to continue owing to the war raging in that region, according to the additional secretary, Union Commerce Ministry C Venkataraman.

In a paper placed before the two-day seminar on import policy organised by the Delhi based Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) here, Mr Venkataraman has voiced concern at this trend, which will erode the country's foreign exchange position.

Mr Venkataraman has said "our import bill will increase rapidly, rather dangerously on account of further hikes on oil prices. In such a situation, it might be difficult to keep up the tempo of liberalised imports".

The paper was submitted before the conference in absentia by Mr Narayan Datt, assistant chief of IIFT.

Mr Venkataraman, however, pointed out that "imports have necessarily to be liberal not only for our industrial development but also for export production".

He said under the circumstances the best source for financing the imports was through physical exports of commodities and invisible exports of skills and services. "In the eighties, India is likely to launch a massive export drive to earn foreign exchange for meeting the requirements of its liberalised imports".

In the context of the growing protectionist trends by developed countries, India's liberal import policy would be an eye opener. If a developing country like India could keep up the tempo of liberalised imports, it was quite likely that the protectionist trends presently apparent in some of the developed countries would slowly diminish, he said.

CSO: 4220/7207

FLOW OF SMUGGLED GOLD FROM DUBAI INTO INDIA REPORTED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 20 Jul 81 p 9

[Text]

DUBAI, July 19.—More than 5,000 tolas of gold is being smuggled into India every day from this West Asian trading post, reports UNI. Business sources say that due to the recent fall in the international prices of gold substantial quantities of the yellow metal are being imported from London and Zurich and then sent to India via Pakistan.

The difference between the prices of gold in India and Dubai averages about Rs 30 to Rs 40 a gramme, making smuggling lucrative. At the same time, India offers the best market for gold because of the traditional habit of its people to hoard the metal as a measure of security.

The staggering damage being done to the Indian economy by this smuggling is indicated by the fact that in May alone, Dubai traders imported 3,000 kg of gold, most of which found its way into India in return for silver. Reports from London suggest that in the same month, Dubai traders supplied the bullion market there with 51,000 kg of silver, while 9,000 kg and 8,000 kg respectively were supplied to the markets in Zurich and France. Western countries require large quantities of the white metal for industrial consumption.

Sources said that in January 1980, when international prices of silver had gone up substantially than those in India, more than 9,000 kg of silver was smuggled out of the country. Silver has always been cheap in India, where even the poor maintain good stocks. Sources said that certain factors were responsible for the smuggling into and from India.

THIRST FOR GOLD

Smuggling is not considered a crime, morally or legally, West Asian countries. Secondly, Indians have an unquenchable thirst for gold "consider the number of marriages in a year and calculate the demand even at the rate of one tola a family", said one source.

Sources said that because of the legitimacy given to smuggling here operations were often supported by banking consortiums "If a consignment is intercepted by the Customs, it is considered a normal business risk and another despatch is sent immediately to keep the commitment with the Indian counterpart".

About the modus operandi, sources said that the hideouts along the vast Indian west coast were known well to the smugglers. Care is taken to ensure that the crew of the dhows can mix with the local population in India and accordingly, most of the smuggling

boats are now manned by Pakistanis, who not only speak Indian languages well but also have relatives in the coastal and other towns.

After lifting the consignment from Dubai or a neighbouring point, a dhow first goes to Pakistani points and then to international waters near the Indian coast. On a predetermined date and time, the dhow touches the rendezvous point on the Indian coast and makes the "switch" — gold for silver and currency.

In case the Indian contacts do not show up, the dhow retreats to international waters after a couple of hours and tries to make the switch again, normally, at another predetermined place. The process continues till the operation is complete.

Modern dhows have speeds up to 40 knots and are equipped with enough fuel and refrigerated food to stay at sea for several days. The speedboats with the Indian Customs, obtained from Norway in 1974, are slower than the dhows.

Asked how it could be said that Pakistanis were manning the dhows, the sources replied that by and large the Arabs did not like to take risks themselves also, now that the West Asian countries had become highly affluent, there was little need for an Arab to involve himself directly.

CANADIANS, SOVIET TO REPAIR GUJARAT OIL WELLS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 8 Jul 81 p 5

[Text]

Oil and Natural Gas Commission has reached an agreement with a Canadian firm — Nowasco for stimulation of sick wells in Gujarat, according to ONGC sources, reports UNI.

The agreement is for a period of two years and Nowasco will start work very soon.

Nowasco will supply stimulation equipment and after the expiry of the agreement, the Canadian firm will leave back the equipment.

The import cost of equipment and the consultancy fees together are worked out at seven million dollars.

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has offered 15 million dollars of credit to India. Fifty per cent of this will be made available to the ONGC for revival of sick oil wells in Gujarat, the sources told UNI.

The ONGC has over 250 sick wells in the Gujarat region. Of the 200 sick wells in Gujarat, some would be entrusted to the

Canadian firm for stimulation work and increasing the oil production.

The remaining sick wells would be taken up for repair by the Soviet experts. The ONGC sources said the Soviet Union would soon be sending two teams for the purpose.

The reactivation programme is part of a four-year plan — drawn up by the ONGC to increase oil production.

The ONGC, however, could not exactly specify the additional quantity of oil which would be made available after the stimulation and repair works.

However, the additional availability of oil from these wells would help make good the depletion of oil in the Ankleshwar fields.

The sources denied reports appearing in a section of the press that it had drawn up a programme in collaboration with a Mexican oil exploration company PEMEX — for conducting seismic surveys in Saurashtra off-shore areas.

CSO: 4220/7207

BRIEFS

SIKKIM PARISHAD MERGER--The ruling Sikkim Parishad led by Chief Minister Nar Bahadur Bhandari on Tuesday merged in the Congress-I at a simple function held at the Prime Minister's residence. The Parishad has 22 members of the 32-member Sikkim Assembly. Welcoming the 47-member delegation of the Parishad, including its president Loden Tsering, Congress-I president Indira Gandhi hoped that the new unit would work for the betterment of the people of the State. Mr Bhandari later told newsmen that the Parishad was virtually functioning as a unit of the Congress-I right from February, 1980. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 8 Jul 81 p 1]

BENGAL HILLS MINISTER--Calcutta, July 7--Mr Tamang Dawa Lama was today sworn in as Minister of State for Hill Affairs of the Planning and Development Department. Governor T N Singh administered the oath of office in Nepali. Chief Minister Jyoti Basu along with other Ministers and dignitaries were present at the ceremony. Mr Lama will function under the Chief Minister. He will function mainly from Darjeeling, according to a Government pressnote, for ensuring better monitoring and quicker implementation of the development programmes for the hill subdivisions of Darjeeling district. The Government has also decided to nominate Mr Lama as one of the vice-chairmen of the Darjeeling Hill Areas Development Council of which the Chief Minister is chairman. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 8 Jul 81 p 4]

CSO: 4220/7208

FINANCE MINISTER IN MEETING WITH PARLIAMENT'S COMMITTEE

Fuel Oil Subsidy Up

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 3 Jun 81 pp 1, 9

[Excerpts] The fuel oil subsidy for 1981/82, which was planned at Rp 1.5 trillion, will be more than that, it is believed. This means that the actual subsidy is expected to be larger.

Concern regarding the size of the fuel oil subsidy during this fiscal year was expressed by Minister of Finance Ali Wardhana during a working meeting with the Parliamentary Budget Committee on Tuesday [2 June]. The meeting, which was presided over by Committee Chairman Sugandi, was reviewing actual budgetary expenditures have tended to increase also."

In fiscal year 1980/81 the fuel oil subsidy was planned to amount to Rp 828.5 billion, but actual expenditure was Rp 1,021.7 billion, with a volume of 22 million kiloliters covered by the subsidy. According to the minister of finance, of the eight types of fuels, four of them bring in a profit to the government, while the other four types must be subsidized.

The four types of fuels which bring in a profit are aviation gasoline which, in fiscal year 1980/81, brought in a profit of Rp 679 million for 20,938 kiloliters sold; jet fuel brought in a profit of Rp 17.155 billion for 515,900 kiloliters sold; high octane gasoline brought a profit of Rp 6.369 billion for 77,700 kiloliters sold; and regular gasoline brought in a profit of Rp 101.1 billion for 3.7 million kiloliters sold.

The oil products which had to be subsidized were kerosine, whose subsidy was Rp 551 billion for 7.8 million kiloliters sold; automotive diesel fuel, whose subsidy was Rp 366.8 billion for 6.3 million kiloliters sold; industrial diesel fuel, whose subsidy was Rp 76.5 billion for 1.2 million kiloliters sold; and fuel oil, whose subsidy was Rp 152.5 billion for 2.4 million kiloliters sold.

On this occasion the minister of finance also stated that during the first 5 months of 1981 (January-May) the inflation rate was only 3.79 percent. In the same period last year the rate was still from 7 to 8 percent. From month to month in 1981 the inflation rate has always been under 1 percent, except for January, when it was

1.3 percent. In February it was 0.7 percent; in March, 0.7 percent; in April 0.9 percent; while in May it was very low at 0.15 percent.

Answering questions about the sale of government obligations abroad, Minister Ali Wardhana said that the Indonesian government on six occasions has carried out the sale of obligations abroad. The first occasion was in Japan on 6 July 1978, when the total sold was 10 billion yen, at an interest rate of 7.5 percent and 10 years for redemption. The second occasion was in the Federal Republic of Germany on 29 September 1978, when the total was 100 [amount not fully given, but must have been 100 million] West German marks, at an interest rate of 7 percent per year and a period of maturity of 6 years. The third occasion was in the Netherlands on 17 March 1979, when the total was 75 million guilders at an interest rate of 9.25 percent and a maturity period of 10 years. The fourth occasion was in Kuwait on 11 July 1979, when the total was 7 million Kuwaiti dinars, at an interest rate of 8.75 percent and a period of maturity of 12 years. The fifth occasion was in Switzerland on 26 September 1980, when the total was 75 million Swiss francs, at an interest rate of 6.5 percent and a period of maturity of 5 years. The sixth occasion was again in Japan, for a total of 10 billion yen, at an interest rate of 8.6 percent and a maturity period of 10 years.

Revenue from Oil Taxes

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 6 Jun 81 pp 1, 9

[Excerpts] With the establishment of an OPEC consensus state receipts from the oil sector apparently will decline but will still be within the limits of financial security. This was stated by Minister of Finance Dr Ali Wardhana in his working meeting on Friday [5 June] with the Budget Committee, presided over by Soedandi, the chairman.

The OPEC conference held in Geneva on 28 May resulted in a consensus which will be applied by all members, except for Saudi Arabia. The OPEC consensus provided for a decrease in production of 10 percent until the next OPEC meeting in December, 1981.

The statement by Minister of Finance Ali Wardhana was in answer to questions from committee member Soesanto regarding the influence of the OPEC consensus on state receipts. The minister stated that the figures on Indonesian oil production, according to the Ministry of Mining and Energy, show production at 1.64 million barrels per day. Of this total not everything is exported, as domestic consumption accounts for 500,000 barrels per day.

In the minister's reply to Siregar, a member of the committee, some details were provided on the company tax and on the tax on oil dividends. He said that the company tax and the tax on oil dividends included in the budget are a part of the profits from contracts of work (KK), production sharing contracts (KPH), and others. The increase in tax receipts from the oil sector resulted not only from increased production but also from the higher oil prices on the world market.

During the period from January to 19 May 1980 receipts from contracts of work were \$29.50 per barrel and from production sharing contracts were \$31.19 per barrel.

Later, during the period from 20 May up to and including 31 December 1980 receipts from contracts of work were \$31.50 per barrel from contracts of work and \$32.52 per barrel from production sharing contracts. During the period from January to 31 March 1981 there was a further increase: receipts from contracts of work rose to \$35 per barrel and from production sharing contracts rose to \$36.50 per barrel.

Later, Minister of Finance Ali Wardhana referred to the 7 percent growth per year in our economy. He provided details, sector by sector. He said that in the agricultural sector alone the increase was 5 percent. In the sub-sector of food plantings the increase was 6.9 percent, while in other agricultural sub-sectors the increase was 2.3 percent. This was followed by mining, with an increase of 1.5 percent; industry, with 11.5 percent; electricity, gas, and aluminum, 7.8 percent; transportation and communications, 9.9 percent; and trade and services, 9.1 percent.

Answering a question from Mustofa Hafas, the minister said that small investment credits (KIK) and permanent working capital credits (KMKP) increased by leaps and bounds. Later, he gave comparative figures which were astonishing. In 1978 total KIK/KMKP credits extended were Rp 80 billion. However, now they total Rp 1.6 billion per day.

The rate of development of our economy continues to increase. Apart from the results in the oil sector, the results from the non-oil sector show a sharp increase. On this basis the provision of credit to the economically weak sector can also be expanded on a large scale.

In the sector of non-oil commodities over the next 3 years which are expected to show explosive growth are the estate-produced commodities. According to Minister of Finance Ali Wardhana, the handling of this sector should be on a wider and more serious basis. He later gave an example regarding the activity of the PRPTEI program [Program for the Rejuvenation, Rehabilitation, and Expansion of Indonesian Agricultural Exports], as a result of providing funds totaling Rp 165 billion. Later, he referred to the PIR program (People's Estate Nucleus). The PIR local program was provided with Rp 13.7 billion; the PIR special program was provided with Rp 31.2 billion; and the PIR assistance program was provided with Rp 37.9 billion. All of these funds total Rp 248 billion. This does not include foreign assistance in the same sector, which totals Rp 39.4 billion. If all of this is added up, it will amount to something approaching one-third of a trillion rupiahs. This is a very large figure, and it is expected that its impact will result in an explosion in estate production.

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CSO: 4213/85

SHARP INCREASE IN TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES PLANNED

Purchase of Trucks, Ships

Jakarta PLEITA in Indonesian 3 Jun 81 pp 1, 7

[Excerpts] In the next 2 to 3 years the government will buy a large number of trucks and ships in order to ensure the transportation of domestic production goods which, it is believed, will rise sharply.

Without stating a definite figure Minister of State and State Secretary Sudharmono said that the land and sea transport units that will be purchased include railroad cars, ships, and trucks in a large number. "Because our production will be large later on, the transportation facilities required will also be large," Sudharmono said, answering a question on how many ships, railroad cars, and other items will be purchased.

Minister of State and State Secretary Sudharmono discussed this matter with reporters on Tuesday [2 June] outside the Bina Graha offices, after President Soeharto had received the cabinet ministers from the economic and financial sectors. He said that the funds provided for the purchase of the equipment would be more than Rp 85 billion. Regarding the acquisition of the equipment, Sudharmono said that invitations to bid were now being prepared.

Restructuring of Transport System

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 8 Jun 81 pp 1, 12

[Excerpts] The coordination of production activity with the distribution system will become a major problem which will be faced in carrying out development activity over the next 2 to 5 years. The two forms of activity must be coordinated and synchronized, because if not, there will be undesirable confusion. Industry will produce goods, but the production will not be transported or sold.

Minister of Industry Abdoel Roesoed made the foregoing statement to KOMPAS as a further explanation of the policy of the government which was made public by Minister of State and State Secretary Sudharmono after a meeting between the president and a number of ministers from the economic and financial sectors last Tuesday [2 June].

The coordination effort, according to Soehoed, will begin with large-scale industry or basic industry. Ideally, the coordination of production and distribution activity should be for all categories of industry, including large-scale, medium-sized, and small industry. However, in accordance with the principle of developing industrial growth centers, this effort always begins with large-scale industry, everywhere in the world. One or two large-scale industrial plants in a growth center will encourage the growth of several medium-sized and small industries. For that reason the principle of managing distribution also follows that concept.

Minister Soehoed said that the provision of adequate transportation and the construction of highways, ports, terminals, and freight depots, all of which constitutes physical infrastructure, constitutes the beginning phase of this effort. This must be followed by the creation of administrative infrastructure or trade patterns, including the development of "trading houses" assisted by banking infrastructure and several other forms of support facilities.

In his speech at Surakarta City Hall before the Central Java branch of the Association of Indonesian Engineers on Friday [5 June] the minister of industry gave a picture of the extent of the problem of distribution as a consequence of the increase in production which will take place in the next 2 to 5 years. He said, "If the basic industrial sector only produced 2 to 5 million tons of goods per year, perhaps there would be no problem."

He estimates that, in the next 2 to 5 years, from Lhokseumawe in Aceh, it will be necessary to transport 6 to 8 million tons of freight (fertilizer, paper, plastic materials, etc); from Padang, 4 to 5 million tons (cement); from Cilegon and other areas of South Sumatra, 4 to 5 million tons (steel, fertilizer, and cement); from Cilacap in Central Java, 2 to 3 million tons (cement); from Gresik, East Java, 4 to 5 million tons (cement, fertilizer); and from Cibinong, West Java, 7 million tons (cement). "For the raw materials required by these industries a transportation capacity of 30 to 40 million tons will be needed," Soehoed said. [Sic; not stated whether these tonnages must be transported in one month or one year, but probably it is the latter]. These figures do not include transportation of fuel for these industries and the production of agricultural commodities like rice, palm oil, and other items. "For that reason, in the future we need a large-scale logistics system with the backbone in transportation," he added.

However, to resolve this problem it is not enough simply to provide any number of trucks and ships, Soehoed said. He pictured the consequences if only this were done, taking as an example the transportation of cement from Cibinong in West Java. The cement can no longer be placed in sacks at the factory and then transported away by truck. "Why the Jagorawi highway would be filled with trucks. Just imagine, 3 million tons of cement! Put it all in sacks, each truck carries 10 tons. How many truckloads would be needed to move this tonnage? About 30,000 truckloads," Soehoed said.

Because of that the cement is not transported in sacks to the consumer but in the form of slurry to the terminal or storage depots built from 50 to 100 km around the factory. It is only at the terminals that the cement is put into sacks and transported to the consumer. "This is why in the developed countries there are

depots for important products. If the commodity is in the form of slurry, storage can be handled in siloes and not in an ordinary warehouse, he said.

The minister of industry used the terms "trunk lines," "feeder lines," terminals, and depots to make his meaning clear. "Trunk lines" are transportation lines from the factory to the terminals or depots. "Feeder lines: are transportation lines from the terminals to the consumer.

In increasing production, Soehoed said, the whole transportation system in Indonesia must be reorganized with networks of "trunk lines" and "feeder lines."

In handling transportation by ship, arrangements must be made so that the ship sails with a load of cargo and returns also loaded with cargo. "We don't tell Minister of Communications Roesmin, 'Here is my product, please move it,'" Soehoed said. "We must try to locate our factories so that Roesmin's ships can get there with a full load and leave from here with a full load also."

The ministry of industry gave the example of what will be done in this direction by pointing out that the plastic materials factory in Lhokseumawe needs chlorine, while the aluminum factory at Kuala Tanjung in Asahan needs caustic soda. The two products are made from salt. For that reason it is planned that salt produced in Madura, East Nusa Tenggara, or West Nusa Tenggara will be transported to Lhokseumawe by ship. From Lhokseumawe the ships will carry plastic materials or aluminum from Kuala Tanjung, or possibly also carry rubber or palm oil.

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CSO: 4213/85

TRADE COOPERATION WITH SOVIET UNION TO IMPROVE RELATIONS

Jakarta HARIAN UMUM AB in Indonesian 6 Jun 81 p 3

[Excerpts] Trade cooperation has been arranged between the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry [KADIN] and the Soviet Union Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The cooperation will be important for the later improvement of relations. The Soviet foreign trade organization and Indonesian business circles have tried to raise the volume of trade in both directions in general.

The beginning of trade transactions between Indonesia and the USSR goes back to the early years of the 1950's. In August, 1956, the USSR and Indonesia signed their first trade agreement. The signature of a new trade agreement by the two countries in March, 1974, provided encouragement to continue the development of trade on the principle of mutual benefit. According to the 1974 trade agreement, the two countries promised to accord each other the same treatment and to pursue mutual benefit in the fields of trade and navigation.

According to statistical data the volume of trade between the USSR and Indonesia in 1974 amounted to 27.9 million rubles, or about \$37 million. This means that trade had increased by four times, compared with 1973. In the following years the volume of trade between the two countries continued to increase. In 1975 it amounted to 28.6 million rubles or more than \$38 million. In 1976 and 1977 trade was about 32 million rubles (more than \$45 million) per year. In 1979 the level reached 49.3 million rubles, or more than \$70 million. In 1980 it amounted to 59.9 million rubles or about \$86 million.

The volume of trade in the last 2 years is the maximum of trade between the two countries during the past 15 years. This proves that after the signature of the 1974 trade agreement trade relations between the two countries have become firmer.

The level of Soviet imports from Indonesia in the last few years far exceeded the level of its exports to Indonesia. In 1974 the trade surplus for Indonesia in its trade with the Soviet Union amounted to about \$16 million. In 1975 the surplus for Indonesia was \$18 million. In 1976 the surplus amounted to \$33 million. In 1977 the surplus for Indonesia was \$41 million. In 1980 Soviet exports to Indonesia were valued at more than \$21 million, while Soviet imports from Indonesia totaled \$64 million. This means there was a surplus for Indonesia of \$43 million.

The principal item imported by the USSR from Indonesia is natural rubber. Apart from that the Soviet Union also has imported black pepper, coffee, semi-processed hides, essential oils, latex, and several other kinds of goods from Indonesia.

WORKERS' WAGES IN INDONESIA REMAIN MATTER OF CONCERN

Jakarta HARIAN UMUM AB in Indonesian 2 Jun 81 pp 1, 2

[Excerpts] Medan--The All-Indonesian Labor Federation (FBSI) considers that the average worker's income in Indonesia is a matter of concern because it is not enough for the workers' daily needs.

The deputy general chairman of the Executive Council of FBSI, Dr Sukarno, said, "We call on employers to raise the workers' wages or salaries from 20 to 40 percent." He was speaking at a ceremony commemorating the eighth anniversary of the foundation of the federation, in Medan on Sunday [31 May]. Such an increase, he said, was proper and just when it is recalled that workers' purchasing power declined by up to 60 percent in 1980.

Violations of Law Stimulate Inflation

Sukarno refuted the view that raising workers' wages amounted to increasing the inflation rate. He declared that it is violations of the law, leaks in the system, and hidden costs which really promote inflation in this country. His opinion was based on an analysis which showed that labor costs in Indonesia were still very low, amounting from 0.5 to 10 percent of the cost of production. This was far below the corresponding labor costs in other ASEAN countries or in the developed countries, where the labor costs reach 20 to 30 percent.

He said that the concept of labor relations in the Pancasila (HPP) is the way to resolve all aspects of labor questions in Indonesia. Restlessness and strike activity on the part of labor in recent years occurred only because labor's basic needs were not satisfied.

He noted that workers increasingly knew their rights and duties as a consequence of the rapidity of national development in the field of education. The dynamic spirit of 45 percent of the young workers (14 to 20 years old) out of the 59.5 million members of the working force in Indonesia finally will give shape to a variety of labor demands.

Sukarno said that present problems will be quickly resolved if the concept of labor relations in the Pancasila is fully applied, that is, by treating the workers as associates in enterprise, with all of the difficulties and advantages involved, rather than by treating them simply as a factor of production.

LEADING FIGURES CALL FOR MUTUAL TRUST

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 6 Jun 81 pp 1, 12

[Article: "Reaction to the President's Appeal: Mutual Trust Must Begin With the Government Itself"]

[Excerpts] Several observers feel President Suharto's pronouncement during the celebration of Isra Mi'raj on 31 May at the Istiqlal Mosque, which stressed the need to develop an atmosphere of mutual trust among us as a people, is "precisely what's needed."

Dr Frans Seda, former member of the cabinet, said, "The pronouncement by Pak Harto is precisely what is needed. It points up the present social crisis which has occurred as we are improving economically. If we are not all mistaken, the social crisis could turn into social disintegration," Frans Seda said.

Jusuf Hasjim, member of parliament from the Development Unity faction, felt the president had presented "a clear view." He is of the opinion that the president's challenge must be received favorably to "continue to develop an atmosphere of mutual trust and openness as well as mutual riddance of suspicion."

Dr Sarlito Wirawan Sarwono, a psychologist from the University of Indonesia, confirmed President Suharto's statement that there is mutual distrust and suspicion in our society.

Dr Frans Seda pointed out that historically mutual suspicion is a new phenomenon. In the history of the republic, from the Proclamation to Bung Karno's regime, little distrust developed. This is now a general phenomenon as politics have developed. "Politics are the source of the mistrust," Seda said.

Recently a student came to Seda and told him, "Pak, I am afraid of the government." Seda then replied, "Not only are you afraid of the government but the government is also afraid of you."

Even though the interviews were held separately, Dr Sarlito, Dr Alfian, and Jusuf Hasjim held the same opinions in regard to the relationship between the government and the people, to the effect that the disparity between what the government says and what it does creates mutual distrust.

"Actions which are not consistent with what is being said will only aggravate mutual distrust," said Dr Alfian, director of the National Cultural Research Institute of the Indonesian Science Institute.

"This means that what the leadership tells the public as well as what the government says must be followed with measures which parallel their statements so they reflect the desires behind those statements," repeated Jusuf Hasjim. Dr. Sarlito said trust in an individual increases if he takes consistent steps. Consistency between what is said and what is done is right and this holds no less for promises. "The more an individual is inconsistent, the more he is distrusted," Sarlito said.

Dr Frans Seda felt public participation in all political fields must be expanded to erase distrust. "And the government must begin by trusting the people. Our trouble now," Seda said, "is that although we support the government, we are considered 'opponents' or 'anti-government' if we criticize it."

Meanwhile Dr Sarlito felt the government could take two steps as a way out of this distrustful state. First, the government should not be embroiled in considering that anything contesting it is done in "opposition" but it would be desirable if the government considered this as a suitable alternative which should be taken into consideration. Second, the government should not be embroiled in taking police measures to settle all sorts of public matters. "Believe in the people and don't start distrusting them. This is the beginning of the growth of mutual trust for allying us as a people," said Dr Sarlito.

Sarlito used the example of a well-known group in the past whose opinions should have been viewed as an alternative but apparently the group was considered to be opponents.

Mutual trust, Frans Seda said, can grow, among other ways, by expanding the avenues for public participation, that is, by creating five political parties: GOLKAR, two Islamic parties, and two national parties. At present these have been narrowed down to only three political forces: GOLKAR, PPP [Development Unity Party], and PDI [Indonesian Democracy Party].

Further, there must be a "LUBER" (direct, public, free, secret) guarantee for the general election. ABRI [Indonesian Armed Forces] must actually be above all groups. It must not be a "cover" for any group. "If ABRI wants to be one with the people, then ABRI also must be one with the /rights/[emphasized] of the people in the general election is a reflection of the people's right to elect, /not/ the right of the official to be elected," said Frans Seda.

Jusuf Hasjim also said the rules of the game, which are strict and clear, must be adhered to in politics.

Concerning the rules of the game mentioned above, Jusuf approached the problem from the aspect that there are two systems in society: the "formal authority" system and the "informal authority" system. The first is formed by the state political body with its bureaucracy, with a monopoly on despotism as well as a "top to bottom" heirarchical order. The second consists of the various social organizations and forces that exist in a nation.

The second system, according to Jusuf Hasjim, has its own protocol. "Therefore, if an element of the formal authority system operates in the informal authority system, that element must act as a 'visitor,'" Jusuf said.

This principle is often violated so what happens is that one system "intervenes" in the other. "This must be mended," Jusuf Hasjim remarked. "The impression gained now is that the formal system is the dominant one and dominates the informal system. Conversely, the informal system tries to prevent this domination. So, there is a continuous 'display of muscles,'" Jusuf remarked.

The government, Sarlito said, has opened up and knows the conditions in society, but often this openness doesn't go as far as strategic matters.

For instance, many state institutions such as LEMHANAS [National Defense Institute] and others invite public figures to speak in their institutions. It appears that frequently decisions are taken subsequently which differ from the opinions that were delivered in those speeches. So, the government has its own opinions. Strategic points are not presented openly to the public, he said.

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CSO: 4213/83

PROFESSOR CALLS ENERGY CONSERVATION ESSENTIAL

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 1 Jun 81 pp 1, 9

[Article: "Prof Johannes Warns: Several Years Hence Indonesia May Be Expelled From OPEC"]

[Excerpts] Without serious efforts to conserve oil in the coming years, Indonesia may lose its membership in OPEC, Dr Herman Johannes warned. The Gadjah Mada University professor presented graphs showing the annual increase in Indonesian energy consumption, which averaged 12 to 14 percent.

With only a 12 percent annual increase, energy consumption will be doubled in the next five and one-half years. This means that daily energy consumption is estimated to be the equivalent of 900,000 barrels of oil before the 1990s.

Using a stern voice, Prof Johannes said that if we are unable to export oil, we will definitely be expelled from OPEC because OPEC is a grouping of oil exporting nations while we, in these later years, may no longer be an oil exporting but rather an oil importing nation in order to meet our domestic energy requirements.

Addressing this problem on Friday evening [29 May] in a lecture on the "Use of Non-conventional Energy to Conserve Oil" in Yogyakarta, Prof Johannes presented a gloomy picture of what may be in store for us in the coming years. He said that we in Indonesia actually are in an alarming and serious situation.

To clarify the picture Johannes noted that although the graphs show that our energy consumption could increase at an annual average rate of 12 to 14 percent, our rate of oil production as yet does not register a comparable increase. In 1977 Indonesian oil production totaled 1.7 million barrels a day. In the next 2 years it dropped to 1.6 and 1.5 million barrels a day. It amounted to about 1.5 million barrels a day in 1980 and is estimated to rise again this year only to 1.6 million barrels a day.

Touching on the statement of Eng Wahjoedi Wisaksono, chairman of the Oil and Natural Gas Technological Research Center (PPTMGB) of the Oil and Natural Gas Institute, during an opinion sharing session with Commission X which covers the research and technology sector in parliament, to the effect that Indonesia had oil reserves of more than 50 billion barrels scattered throughout 40 inland and offshore reservoirs, Prof Johannes said all of us hope that these reservoirs have a potential for producing oil.

Then he added that we all, nevertheless, must be aware of the potential danger if no serious efforts are made to economize on the use of energy. Our requirements continue to increase but are not balanced by a similar increase in oil production. We now import diesel fuel and sell it in the market place at a price far lower than the actual cost of production. "What will happen when the subsidies are withdrawn and we must face the truth?" Johannes asked.

The professor, former rector of Gadjah Mada University and member of the DPA [ASEAN Oil Council], reminded his audience that oil and natural gas are far more valuable as a raw material for the petrochemical industry than as a fuel. Obviously oil should not be used as a source of energy but for the sake of economy should be replaced with some sort of nonconventional energy. Economic use of oil is an absolute necessity because oil and natural gas are nonrenewable fossil fuels which can only be extracted once from the earth.

Referring to this year's RAPBN [draft budget], Dr Johannes noted that about 200 million cubic feet of natural gas are unused (978.5 million cubic feet are produced and 771 million cubic feet are used). Prof Johannes said at present associated natural gas is being burned off uselessly by the oil companies at a cost of more than \$1 billion a year!

In regard to ethanol production, Dr Herman Johannes remarked that the government plans to build thousands of ethanol factories using sweet potatoes (*Impomoe batata*) and cassava (*Mahinot utilissima*) as raw materials. "Actually I don't quite agree with Pak Habibie's plan," Johannes said frankly. Preparations must be made to plant hundreds of hectares on tuber estates and to provide fertilizer and water. "Why don't we use the hundreds of thousands of hectares of existing nipah [thatch palm] forests which can produce ethanol without irrigation, fertilizers, or special care?" he said. Producing ethanol from nipah palm is easier than producing it from tuber powder. Moreover nipah can produce 24,800 liters per hectare of ethanol while cassava can only produce 4,300 liters per hectare.

Waving his notes in the air, Dr Johannes concluded by saying local governments report 350,000 hectares of nipah forests are already available in the East Kalimantan region alone. "Why don't we use these forests first rather than setting up cassava and sweet potato estates to produce ethanol?"

In a calmer voice and raising both hands, the high spirited old professor continued, "I don't know why not."

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CSO: 4213/83

PEKANBARU AIR FORCE BASE TO HAVE SKYHAWK SQUADRON

Jakarta HARIAN UMUM AB in Indonesian 2 Jun 81 p 1, 3

[Article: "Pekanbaru Air Force Base to Be on Same Level As Halim Perdanakusuma"]

[Excerpts] Pekanbaru (AB)--The commander of Air Region I, Air Commodore Ibnu Subroto, stated that in the near future a squadron of Skyhawk aircraft will be stationed at Pekanbaru Air Force Base. With the stationing of these U.S. made aircraft there the Indonesian Air Force unit in this region will have awesome striking power.

According to the Air Commodore, on 19 May the aircraft arrived in Medan, North Sumatra. Their stationing at Pekanbaru Air Force Base can only take place after the construction of the required facilities is completed over the next 2 years, at a cost of Rp 2 billion from the 1981/82 budget. This statement was made by Air Commodore Ibnu Subroto last week in Pekanbaru when he was making a one day working visit to Pekanbaru Air Force Base. According to Ibnu Subroto, when he was appointed commander of Air Region I at the time only involved 11 work unit projects, with a value of Rp 149 million.

However, after the Air Region I defense concept was revised, it turned out that there were many air bases which were very much needed, in the Natuna, South China Sea, Riau Archipelago area. With this defense concept the Headquarters of the Indonesian Air Force and the Ministry of Defense and Security developed it further. As a result the budget which only amounted to Rp 149 million in fiscal year 1978/79 was raised to Rp 279 million in fiscal year 1979/80 and to Rp 2.7 billion in 1980/81, including funds for construction at Natuna Air Force Base.

In fiscal year 1981/82 Air Force facilities amounting to Rp 2 billion will be built at Pekanbaru, with Rp 5 billion already allocated for construction at Natuna.

With the future stationing of a squadron of Skyhawk aircraft at Pekanbaru, this means that Pekanbaru will be at the same level as Halim Perdanakusuma and Abdurachman Saleh Air Force Bases.

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CSO: 4213/81

PRAMOEDYA ANANTA TOER BOOKS BANNED

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 1 Jun 81 pp 1, 12

[Article: "Bumi Manusia" and "Anak Semua Bangsa" Written by Pramoedya Are Banned From Circulation"]

[Text] Two books written by Pramoedya Ananta Toer, "Bumi Manusia" and "Anak Semua Bangsa," were banned from circulation by the Republic of Indonesia attorney general as of 29 May 1981.

His decision No Kep-052/JA/5/1981 states the books, published by PT "Hasta Mitra" on PLN 36 Pancoran Street, South Jakarta, are prohibited from being stored, owned, or sold in Indonesia. Anyone storing, owning, or selling these books is obligated to turn them over to the chief of the public prosecutor's office or the chief of the district attorney's office for forwarding to the attorney general.

This decision was issued after the decision of the commander of the Security and Order Command No K-22/kopkam/V/1981 was read. It concerns the banning of any circulation of "Bumi Manusia" and "Anak Semua Bangsa."

In the opinion of the decision makers, the books written by Pramoedya Ananta Toer and printed by "Ampat Lima" in Jakarta had "created certain reactions in various circles of the public and had promoted and influenced a public security and order (KAMTIB) situation."

The decision said that "subtly and insidiously, through skillful and flowing use of his pen, and in the guise of presenting historic data, the author inserted Marxist-Leninist teachings."

According to the decision, the books' contents definitely contravened MPRS Regulation No. XXV/MPRS/1966, dated 5 July 1966, on the Abolition of the Indonesian Communist Party juncto article 3 of MPR Act No. V/MPR/1973, dated 22 March 1973.

By Saturday afternoon [30 May] Pramoedya Ananta Toer and the publisher PT "Hasta Mitra" said they had not received the attorney general's decision that banned the books. Yoesoef Iskak, publisher of PT "Hasta Mitra," therefore, intended to call on the attorney general that afternoon.

Anak Agung Gde Ngurah, chief of the Information Service of the Attorney General's Office, said the decision regarding the banning of the two books "is on its way" to the publisher.

Regarding a meeting between the publisher and the attorney general, A. A. G. Ngurah said, "It usually must be done according to protocol!" The chief of the Information Service had not yet heard that any such meeting was planned.

Yoesoef Iskak said he had frequently been requested to stop publication of the two books written by Pramoedya even before he heard of the attorney general's decision.

"Bumi Manusia" was reprinted five times and "Anak Semua Bangsa" twice. Each printing consisted of 5 to 10,000 copies. The two books were part of a series entitled "Tetra Logi" by Pramoedya, which was to consist of four volumes. As planned, books three and four were entitled "Jejak Langkah" and "Rumah Kaca."

The publisher could not say whether the two books still to be published will meet the same fate as the first two volumes.

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CSO: 4213/83

PLANNED COAL PRODUCTION, PETROCHEMICAL PROJECTS DESCRIBED

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 5 Jun 81 p 2

[Article: "Minister Subroto Says Coal Will be Used Solely for Domestic Purposes"]

[Excerpt] Mining and Energy Minister Subroto pointed out that in the coming period coal will be used solely for domestic purposes, replacing oil, so that oil can be used for more important purposes such as export and as a basic material for the petrochemical industry.

In making this clarification during a working meeting with parliamentary Commission VI, chaired by Rahmat Witalar, on Thursday [4 June], Minister Subroto said coal will be used mainly in cement projects. Only if it cannot be used there, will natural gas be used, or if necessary [another type of] coal will be imported.

The role of coal is becoming increasingly important for the coming period as attempts are made to diversify energy resources to reduce the use of oil as the primary energy source.

Increased domestic coal production is linked to these efforts, Minister Subroto said. Indonesia now has three main sources of coal. The largest fields are located in Ombilin, Bukit Asam, and in the East and South Kalimantan regions.

Bukit Asam production is handled by PT Bukit Asam. The 1981 production of some 225,000 tons of coal will be doubled to 500,000 tons by 1984 and to about 3.3 million tons by 1990.

Ombilin coal mines, which produced about 205,000 tons in 1981 [as published] will be producing about 435,000 tons by 1981 and about 1,352,000 tons by 1990.

Meanwhile coal mines are being developed in East and South Kalimantan jointly with foreign contractors under production sharing agreements. Cooperative projects are being pioneered with Utah and Arco. For this region in particular, bids are awaited from other contractors who might be interested in production sharing contracts with Indonesia such as Agip, Riotinto, Sumitomo, and other companies. It is planned that 4.5 million tons will be mined by 1990 from fields which are believed to have good potential reserves. It is anticipated that 5,000 tons of coal will be produced from various small mines scattered throughout West, Central, and East Java and South Sulawesi by 1982. Production should increase to about 100,000 tons by 1990.

Production of anthracite coal alone, which will be about 47,000 tons in 1981, will increase to about 115,000 tons by 1990. This coal will be used mainly as a basic material for metallurgical processes and for firing in mini-cement plants.

Total coal production in the coming ten years is planned to increase from about 430,000 tons in 1981 to about 10,252,000 tons by 1990. Among efforts at cooperation with foreign companies, the project pioneered with Utah and Arco under a production sharing agreement will be a model project.

In addition to presenting information on major oil and gas projects handled by the Department of Mining and Energy, the minister also said the petrochemical industry uses oil and gas as basic materials.

The Oleifin Center, which is to be built in Lhoksemaue, Aceh, is included among these projects and will use natural gas from Arun. The project will manufacture plastic for domestic requirements. Two companies, from France and the United States, have indicated their interest in a joint venture with Pertamina. The government is still conducting investigations in search of a suitable partner that would hold 70 percent of the company's shares. A 60-month construction period is needed for this enterprise which would begin commercial operations in 1986. About 1,800 workers would be employed per day and about 4,500 per day at peak production.

Another project is the Aromatic Center in Plaju, South Sumatra, to produce primary materials for the domestic textile industry, using naptha as a raw material. Capital investment is about \$800 million, and it should be completed in about 1985. This project will employ 1,800 to 4,500 persons per day.

The carbon black project will use residues from the oil refineries. The product of this company will be used in tire and paint manufacture. Planned production is 20,000 tons a year. This material is being imported from overseas at present.

This project will be a joint venture between Indonesia and an overseas company. Costs of construction are about \$20 million, and the project will be located in Cilegon. It will employ 500 workers per day. The project is expected to be moving along well by 1983.

The methanol project will use natural gas from Bunyu Island in East Kalimantan and is expected to begin operations in July 1989. Negotiations for this project, which will employ about 900 workers at peak production, are still underway with a foreign contractor.

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CSO: 4213/83

OMBILIN COAL MINE INVESTMENT SET AT \$100 MILLION

Jakarta HARIAN UMUM AB in Indonesian 5 Jul 81 p 5

[Article: "\$100 Million for Development of Ombilin Coal"]

[Excerpts] Padang, AB--The secretary general of the Ministry of Mining and Energy, Sutarjo Sigit, has stated that the development of the first phase (1981/82) of the Ombilin coal project will be undertaken at a cost of \$100 million (Rp 62.6 billion). Assurances of export credits from the countries belonging to IGGI [Inter-Governmental Group on Indonesia, an aid coordinating body] for the development of the Ombilin coal project have been received from the National Planning Body [BAPPENAS], he added.

He stated the foregoing to the press on the occasion of the installation in office of Dr Syahril Husein as chief of the Regional Office for Sumatra, Riau, and Jambi of the Ministry of Mining and Energy, in Padang on Saturday [30 May].

In the development of this first phase the firm PN T B O Sawahlunto must be able to mine 200,000 tons of coal in 1982, which will later rise to 400,000 tons in 1983 and 725,000 tons in 1985. For that purpose studies on the implementation and preparation of operations have been undertaken well in advance, with the cooperation of Canada and by using equipment from the former Polish credit, which was used to increase the capacity for mining and transporting coal.

Mining coal these days is not just carried out in underground mines but also on the surface of the ground, in the form of open pit mining.

With the entry into operation of the 12 megawatt steam electric generator (PLTU) at Solok, Sawahlunto, the firm PN T B O Sawahlunto has enough power for mining, transportation, and exploration for coal. Indeed, there is an excess of about 6 megawatts left over from current operations which, according to present plans, will be transmitted to Padang via a high tension network.

The secretary general of the Ministry of Mining and Energy went on to say that in the second phase of mining operations in the late 1980's T B O Sawahlunto must be able to produce 1.3 million tons of coal per year. For that purpose the government will seek credits both in the form of export credits from IGGI countries as well as from other financial groups such as the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, or from the national budget itself.

He declared that the coal produced, either from the Ombilin mine or from the Bukit Asam, Mahakan, and other mines will be used for domestic requirements, such as cement factories, electricity generation, and other purposes. He said that we will get more benefit out of exporting oil than exporting coal. For that reason fuel requirements within the country will be met primarily from coal. One ton of coal will produce energy equivalent to 3.5 barrels of oil, and for the Ombilin coal the ratio is 1.4.

In that connection Sutarjo Sigit stated that if oil exploration being carried on by two Caltex contractors in West Sumatra is successful, the area will be the best situated in Indonesia from the point of view of energy. There are four large lakes and dozens of rivers in that area having the energy potential of hundreds of megawatts. The coal deposits at Ombilin, Sinamar, and Lumpa contain hundreds of millions of tons of coal. Geothermal resources have been discovered in Solok, on the south side of Kerinci mountain, near Pasaman, and also around Talang and Merapi which can produce dozens and even hundreds of megawatts of electricity. Beside that, in cooperation with the Federal Republic of Germany, the Batan (Indonesia) Company has undertaken a uranium survey in West Sumatra, especially in the regency of Limapuluh Kota, because it is believed that there are resources of this form of energy.

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CSO: 4213/81

BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON INDONESIAN PERSONALITIES

[Unless otherwise noted, the following information on Indonesian personalities has been extracted from Indonesian language sources published in Jakarta.]

COMMODORE S REKSODIHARDJO--The post of chief of the Office of Hydrography and Oceanography (KAJANHIDROS) on Friday [29 May] was transferred from the incumbent, Commodore D U Martoyo, to his replacement, Commodore S Reksodihardjo, at a ceremony in the Office of Hydrography and Oceanography in Navy Headquarters, Jakarta. Commodore Martoyo has been appointed head of the Survey and Mapping Center (KAPUSSURTA) of the Indonesian Armed Forces in Jakarta. Commodore S Reksodihardjo was previously commander of Navy Region 7 in Ujung Pandang [Sulawesi]. As is known, the Office of Hydrography and Oceanography has performed a variety of functions for the armed forces, the Navy, and the Ministry of Defense and Security, as well as in the general, national interest, carrying out surveys and preparing ocean charts through cooperation with friendly countries like ASEAN, Japan, and the United States. It has prepared books, nautical almanacs, and lists of other books on the sea. [Excerpts] [Jakarta HARIAN UMUM AB in Indonesian 4 Jun 81 p 6] 5170

POEDJI KOENTARSO--The office of chief of the Directorate of Multilateral Economic Cooperation (KSEM) has been transferred from Irawan Darsa, the new Indonesian deputy permanent representative in the UN office in Geneva, to Poedji Koentarlo. Poedji Koentarlo was born in Barut on 28 April 1932. Before his appointment as chief of the Directorate of Multilateral Economic Cooperation, he was chief of the Economic Section of the Indonesian Embassy in London, with the title of Minister Counselor and then of Minister. The transfer of office ceremony took place in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Jakarta on Friday [12 June]. [Excerpts] [Jakarta HARIAN UMUM AB in Indonesian 13 Jun 81 p 2] 5170

KUSUMASMORO--The position of chief of the Directorate of Foreign Social and Cultural Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been transferred from Dr Sukadijah Pringgohardjoso to Kusumasmoro on Friday [12 June] at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Jakarta. Dr Sukadijah Pringgohardjoso has been appointed Indonesian ambassador to Denmark, her first ambassadorial assignment. Kusumasmoro was born in Semarang on 14 October 1924. Before his new appointment Kusumasmoro was Indonesian ambassador to Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay. After returning to Jakarta he was appointed director for international organizations in the Directorate General for Political

Affairs, immediately prior to his assignment as chief of the Directorate of Foreign Social and Cultural Affairs. [Excerpts] [Jakarta HARIAN UMUM AB in Indonesian 13 Jun 81 p 2] 5170

COMMODORE BASUKI—The post of chief of staff of the Indonesian Fleet, which until now has been temporarily held by Colonel (Navy) Sriwaskito, on 8 June 1981 was transferred to Commodore Basuki in the Gadjah Mada building at the Indonesian Navy Base in Surabaya. Colonel Sriwaskito, beside acting as chief of staff of the Indonesian Fleet, is assistant for operations to the commander of the fleet, while Commodore Basuki, in addition to his new post as chief of staff of the fleet, continues to be commander of the Nusantara Squadron. Commodore Basuki was born in Banyuwangi, East Java. He is a graduate of the Navy Academy (now the Navy Section of AKABRI) in the class of 1958. He has had considerable experience at sea in several types of submarine and has also served in the higher command offices of the Navy. As commander of the Nusantara Squadron since the beginning of 1980 he was assigned to additional duty as commander of Operation Guruh, a special task force operation in East Indonesian waters, which he carried out with great success. [Excerpts] [Jakarta HARIAN UMUM AB in Indonesian 13 Jun 81 p 6] 5170

MAJ GEN R SUKOTJO--Minister of Trade and Cooperatives Radius Prawiro on Monday [8 June] installed Maj Gen R Sukotjo (Ret) in office as inspector general of the Ministry of Trade and Cooperatives. The former commander of Military Region VII/Diponegoro replaced Brig Gen Anumerta Mokhtar Harahap, who died in the United States on 20 March 1981. Sukotjo retired from military service on 31 December 1980. He was born in Purwokerto on 21 December 1925. During his service in the Army he was commander of Military Region IX/Mulawarman, commander of Military Region II/Bukit Barisan, and was commander of Military Region VII/Diponegoro before retiring. [Excerpts] [Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 9 Jul 81 p 12] 5170

HERO U KUNTJORO-JAKTI--Hero U Kuntjoro-Jakti was born in Serang on 3 July 1946. He is a staff instructor in the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Indonesia and is a member of the editorial staff of that faculty's publication, JURNAL PENELITIAN SOSIAL. He graduated with a major in political science from the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Indonesia (September, 1973), and graduated from the Department of Diplomatic History, Faculty of Law, University of Hiroshima (master's degree in law), March, 1980. [Text] [Jakarta PRISMA in Indonesian No 3, Mar 81, p 111] 5170

M DAWAM RAHARDJO--M Dawam Rahardjo was born in Surakarta (Central Java) in 1942. He is the director of the Association for Economic and Social Research, Education, and Information (LP3ES) in Jakarta. He graduated in 1969 from the Faculty of Economics, Gadjah Mada University. He is active in conducting survey and research projects, including a survey of the rattan industry in Central and South Kalimantan and a feasibility study on wood industrialization in East Kalimantan. He attends seminars within Indonesia and overseas. He has written several books published by the LP3ES, including: "Hasil Penelitian Kerajinan Rakjat Jawa Timur" (Results of Research on East Java Village Industry), "Unit Perencanaan Daerah" (Regional Planning Unit), "Hasil Penelitian Industrial Craft dan Design" (Results of Research on Industrial Craft and Design), "Pesantren dan Pembaharuan: (editor) (Religious Training Centers and Renewal), and "Profil Pesantren" (Profile of a Religious Training Center). [Text] [Jakarta PRISMA in Indonesian No 3, Mar 81, p 111] 5170

SOEHARSONO SAGIR--Soeharsono Sagir was born on 17 January 1934 in Tegal, Central Java. He graduated from the Faculty of Economics of Padjadjaran University in Bandung in 1960. He obtained an Economic Planning Certificate from the Advanced School of Planning and Statistics, Warsaw University, in 1963. He attended the doctoral program at Padjadjaran University, under Dr Sumitro Djojohadikusumo. He is a teacher in the Indonesian Armed Forces Education Institution and is a permanent teacher in the Faculty of Economics of Padjadjaran University, conducting classes in analysis of Indonesian economic policy and monetary and bank economics. He is an assistant at the Bandung Technological Institute and Parahiyangan University in Bandung. He is an economics columnist in several daily newspapers, including PIKIRAN RAKYAT (regional publication) and KOMPAS and SINAR HARAPAN (Jakarta). On numerous occasions he has attended seminars, both within Indonesia as well as abroad, both attending and presenting working papers. He has served as dean of the Faculty of Economics, Padjadjaran University, between 1968 and 1972. [Text] [Jakarta PRISMA in Indonesian No 3, Mar 81, p 111] 5170

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